

DECEMBER 1954



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# SKIN DIVER

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MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE UNDERWATER WORLD



## Healthways

**FIRST IN WATER SPORTS!  
THE WORLD'S FINEST, MOST  
COMPLETE LINE OF UNDER-  
WATER EQUIPMENT!**



## An Open Letter to Underwater Sportsmen— Any City Anywhere



## Dear Friends:

In the short period since Cressi Underwater Sports Equipment was introduced to you, I have been extremely grateful for the wonderful enthusiasm with which you have received my products, the result of 20 years of unremitting research and development work in my factories in Italy.

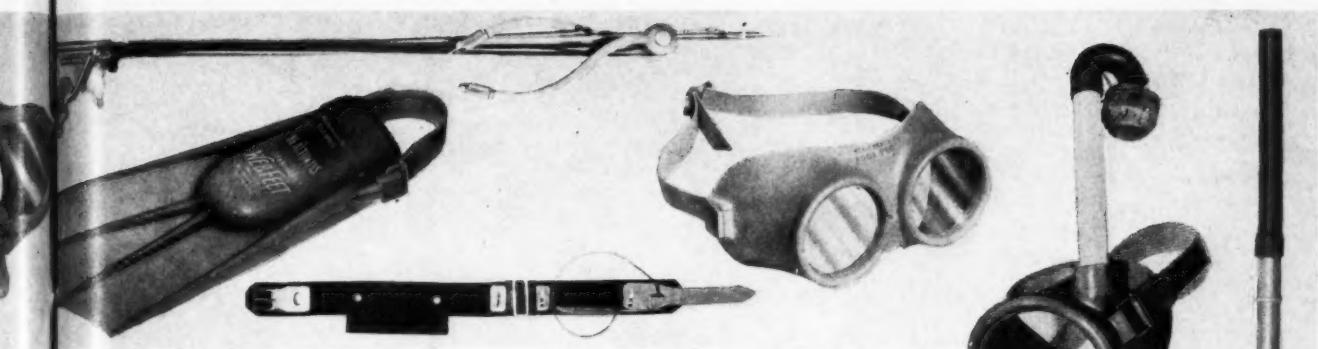
The extensive experimentation and testing which my staff and I have always done under actual underwater conditions throughout the world, have brought each product to the scientific perfection that is required to give underwater sportsmen maximum efficiency, utility and protection under even the most extreme circumstances.

It is a matter of record that the greatest of spear fishing champions have maintained the use of Cressi equipment exclusively in achieving their remarkable feats. Both the 1954 European and Italian spear fishing champions, Roghi Gianni, and Jannuzzi Ruggero used Cressi products in achieving their amazing records. In the Western Hemisphere, Cressi products are now helping create thousands of new Los Angeles enthusiasts and participants in the fastest-growing sport in the world. Our products are winning the approval of all who have the opportunity to use them, whether they are experts or beginners.

In 1954 the demand in America for Cressi products was so great that serious problem developed as to how to supply the demand. The distance from our factories in Italy, shipping time and high import duties added to the problem making it necessary for Cressi products to be sold at the highest prices of any underwater sports equipment in the United States. However, this did not dampen your enthusiasm because you bought every single, last item that could be brought into America, confirming your wholehearted approval of our products.

Looking forward to 1955, it became evident that something should be done to make our products available at all times, in whatever quantities we required, and at the lowest prices possible.





SS  
ITALY  
We investigated thoroughly the possibility for manufacturing and distribution on a broad scale in the Western Hemisphere, and after careful and thorough study of all the manufacturing and distributing organizations in America, we formed an association with Healthways, the firm which has proven its forward-thinking and leadership in the development, manufacture and distribution of the finest aquatic and water sports products made in America. Healthways' intense belief in the perfection and safety features of their products closely parallels the dedication of my own organization in this respect.

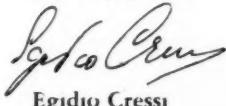
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It is, therefore, with much pleasure and pride that I herewith announce that, beginning in January, 1955, Healthways exclusively will manufacture and distribute all Cressi products throughout the Western Hemisphere.

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With Healthways tremendous production capacity in its own rubber plant located of new Los Angeles, you will now be able to buy Cressi products at new low prices d. That will make it possible for everyone to own them and enjoy them.  
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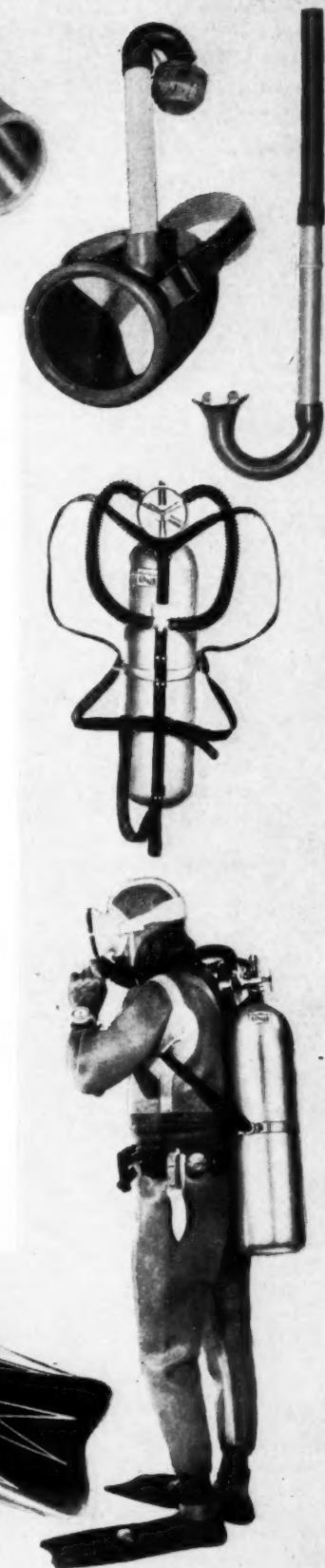
To constantly add more and more enthusiasts, Healthways will give a series of lectures and demonstrations in literally every major city with many interesting and colorful films to be presented

In Italy our own development and research program is being stepped up, and our liaison with Healthways will be so close, that you will have a never-ending stream of the finest underwater sports equipment in the world to make complete your thorough enjoyment and safety always. To this end both Healthways and Cressi are dedicated

Sincerely yours,



Egidio Cressi



# The SKIN DIVER

P. O. Box 128, Lynwood, California

Vol. III December, 1954 No. 12

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JIM AUXIER

Editor

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## CLUB REPORTS

are submitted each month by club publicity representative and consist of one typewritten page, double spaced, 200 words per report.

Address all correspondence to:

The SKIN DIVER

P. O. Box 128

Lynwood, California, U.S.A.

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## DECEMBER COVER

*Cam Portious and the underside of a 25 pound octopus caught at Horseshoe Bay, B.C., Canada. Cam is a member of the Vancouver Skin Divers. Several octopus are mentioned in this issue, one measured 14 feet. Octopus with spreads up to 24 feet have been seen underwater, good cover material. Photo by Jim Willis.*

# JIM CRAX



By EDITOR

Thinking out loud . . . our sport, skin diving, spearfishing, underwater hunting or what have you, is still gaining momentum day by day. New equipment, new methods . . . it is hard to look at the "good old days" and find something that hasn't been greatly improved upon in one way or another. As the diving circle grows larger we find more people getting together and forming associations and diving clubs, these clubs in turn hold beach meets, put on displays and competitions that interest more people in the sport. The above ideas all lead to my subject . . . the magazine is presently being flooded with club reports, pushing the feature articles into smaller spaces. The club list is growing tremendously so we have a plan that will allow the club reporters to write a complete report and we can still have a well balanced magazine. This plan can only work with everyone's complete cooperation . . . the plan is, that the clubs report on alternate months. We will prepare two lists, trying to balance the nation, using club reports from all over the country each month. Club correspondents are asked to write a post card giving the name of the club, address and the name of the writer. We will send a return card to the writer and tell him which months to submit the club report, odd or even. Do this now so we can begin 1955 on an even fin. Please use the standard post card when writing as we will file these cards and they can be used on a future club roster. Also please note that we have reduced the number of words requested from clubs, 200 is the present count . . . this gives approximately 5 inches to each club.

This plan will not curtail the part that clubs play in the magazine but will allow more clubs to present a more interesting report, combining two months activities in one report. We hope that all club reporters will cooperate with the plan and start now by writing that post card immediately. This applies to all clubs, even those that have only been reporting once or twice a year because as mentioned before, the cards will be used to formulate a future club roster.

While I have the attention of the clubs I would like to suggest that the SKIN DIVER become a part of each and every meeting. Those guests and prospective members attending will be interested and we certainly can use the extra subscribers that will be derived from such action. Within the club reports published each month you will find many organizational hints as well as many good underwater practices not known before.

This is the last notice and the final opportunity you have for the library-bound volume III, 1954, SKIN DIVER. Price \$8.00. Orders for this volume will be stopped January 10, 1955.

Coming up soon will be a "Handy Hints" or "Do It Yourself" column . . . your suggestions are needed to make this item well rounded and complete. Little time saving gadgets, new discoveries about your particular equipment and how to use it will be revealed here for all to read. Let's have yours . . . diagrams should be in black ink, photographs welcomed also.

More of our magazine improvement program later . . . SEASON'S GREETINGS.

# Council of Diving Clubs of California

Meeting  
December 15, 1954

## NEW MEETING PLACE

Inglewood Recreation Center  
621 North La Brea Avenue  
Inglewood, California  
(corner of Hyde Park Blvd. and La Brea)  
8:00 P.M.

Dear Editor:

Could you possibly send me names and addresses of persons in my locality who also read the SKIN DIVER? (Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois). There are not many divers here or good water therefore any persons within 100 miles would be greatly appreciated.

Norman E. Crews  
2512 E. Lombard St.  
Davenport, Iowa

Dear Editor:

Since the release of the motion picture "The Frogmen," I have been interested in skin diving, however, due to the absence of local interest I have put off looking into it from the standpoint of a hobby until about a month ago. I talked to a serviceman on a train who had done some skin diving on the east coast and he told me quite a bit about the fun I had been missing. I then got busy and have secured catalogs from two supply houses, as none of the local sporting goods shops or department stores carry any of this type of equipment. It was in one of these catalogs that I noticed your magazine; I immediately subscribed and have read the October issue from cover to cover and some of the articles several times.

Through the sources above I have learned a lot but like all beginners I have a lot of questions I would like to ask of someone who has the time and would not mind answering some seemingly foolish questions on the subject. Would appreciate if you would publish my letter in your magazine and maybe some kind soul will come to my rescue. Thanking you in advance for this favor, I remain:

Very truly yours,  
John J. Wysong  
351 Saratoga Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas

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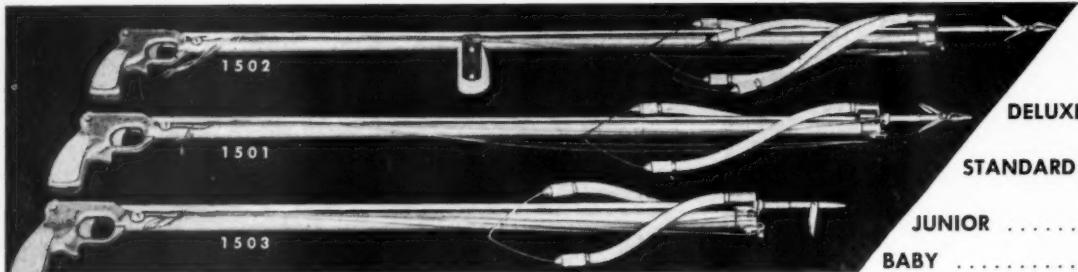
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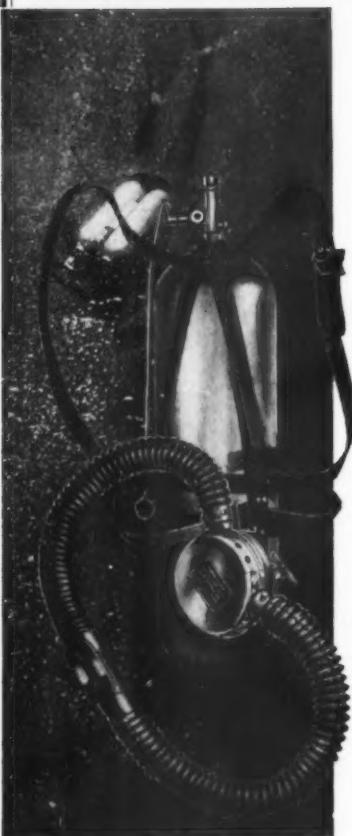
Invented and used by Capt. Cousteau (author of the best seller "The Silent World"). The "Aqua-Lung" is not an experiment; it has been used for eight years without one single casualty traced to a mechanical failure. It is standard equipment in the French, Canadian, British and U. S. Navies, and the Universities of Washington, Wisconsin, Stanford, Berkeley, Texas, M.I.T., U.S.C., U.C.L.A., Pomona College, Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, fire departments, American Red Cross, shipping companies, harbor commissions, lifeguards, 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. (as in their masterpiece "The Frogmen"), and by thousands of yachtsmen, sports and commercial fishermen.

The most momentous invention since the conquest of air, the "Aqua-Lung" opens up a new and richer world to the pioneers of our generation. You, too, can enjoy the exhilarating experience of neutral buoyancy and, like fish, escape the laws of gravity . . . effortless motion in any direction!

Do not trade your life for a few silver pieces . . . why take a chance? Dive with the "Aqua-Lung" of proved performance.

All units complete for immediate use.

**JUNIOR** (1/2 hour—no reserve) **\$125.00**  
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Navy type, unsurpassed in design and quality, with short, soft skirt; comfortable fit on the most sensitive faces. Will seal on frogman suit. Widest field of vision, solid stainless steel rim, shatterproof glass—the best insurance against accidents to the eyes. Of the seven American and foreign swim type face masks tested by the U. S. Naval Underwater Motion Picture Dept., U. S. Navy, only one, the French "SQUALE" face mask was found satisfactory . . . **\$4.95**



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## "From Down Under"

An idea gleaned from a magazine,  
A visit to a store,  
Then a quiet descent on to a beach  
New diving gear he wore.

With wonder in the heart of him  
Of sights beneath the wave,  
Were there really mermaids there?  
(Should he have a shave?)

Would he, could he ever seek  
The monsters of the deep,  
And octopi and squidlike things  
In amphoras fast asleep?

He pondered if he'd ever share  
A swim 'neath long still decks  
Or gold and jewels, the wondrous things  
From silent salvaged wrecks.

Were there meadows green as grass?  
Sands as white as snow?  
Would he ever really find  
Where anglers sinkers go?

For speculation, trepidation  
Hold some truth for him,  
As to the floor he softly glides  
With slowly moving limb.

But all so quiet, and so alone  
Oh! What unhappy plight,  
But buddy swimming swiftly down  
Presents a welcome sight.

New visions he encounters  
New thoughts to keep in store  
A new world he has discovered  
Adventures by the score.

And when the swim is over  
And he's drying on the beach  
The talk of fish and fancies  
Governed only by his reach.

For now the bug has bitten  
And loved ones go unsung  
For our hero now has started  
Diving with a lung. ▶

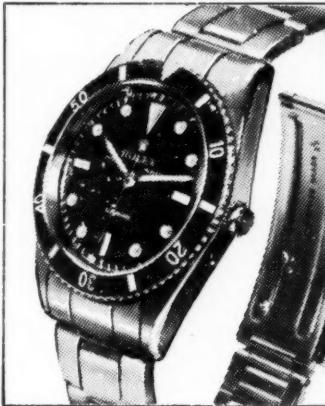
By DAVE FORDHAM  
South Australia

(Singapore) — A shark fatally wounded a Royal Navy frogman searching for opium believed dumped in Singapore Harbor. The shark attacked him 100 yards offshore. Customs and naval officers pulled him from the water with gashes on the right thigh and both arms but he died before they could take him to the hospital. ▶

# FROGMAN!

To that ever-increasing group who seek adventure beneath the sea — we present the new ROLEX FROGMAN . . . specifically engineered for marine and underwater activities.

Featuring the patented Rolex "rotor" self-winding movement... The FROGMAN functions perfectly under the tremendous pressures of deep water (to 600 feet), and during the rigors of strenuous sports activity. Hands and dial figures are extra luminous to be clearly visible under water and a special calibrated revolv-



ing bezel serves as a "time recorder" to prevent oversubmersion.

Here, at last, is a reliable time-piece tailored to America's fastest growing sport

Mr. D. Rebikoff, Vice President of the Institute of Submarine Research of Cannes, France, in his report on the 132 Medi-

terranean diving trials with the Rolex waterproof Frogman writes:

"We are thinking of making it a duty for every leader of a diving team to be equipped with a watch of this type. This safety instrument represents a considerable progress in deep sea diving equipment. We are able to confirm that this watch has not only given entire satisfaction in diving conditions which were tough and particularly murderous for the material used but that it has proved an indispensable accessory for all diving with independent equipment."

I would like the Rolex waterproof self-winding Frogman.

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# Ocean Waves

By BEV B. MORGAN

In some parts of the world the skin diver must constantly cope with waves. The diver watches for periods when there is little or no surf. The water is usually clearer during these "flat" spells and, needless to say, the diving areas beyond the surf are more accessible.

On the other hand, there is a brand of surface enthusiast that eagerly looks forward to seeing large waves roll in from deep water, steepen to the breaking point, then topple forward with the sound of thunder. These are the surfboard riders who will travel as far looking for big surf as a skin diver will looking for clear water.

Waves play an important role in the life of the water man. What are waves and where do they come from? At first glance a wave may appear to be merely a large collection of water rolling across the top of the water. However, careful observation will show that actually the water in a wave has little forward motion.

The movement is in a circular or rippling motion much the same as a rope which has been set in motion by sending ripples down it. The ripples move down the rope, but the individual portions of the rope do not move forward at all, just up and down. This is similar to the motion of water on a wave.

Waves are formed in a number of different ways. A stone dropped in a pond will cause one, so will a speeding ship. The waves that travel across the sea to form surf are generally caused by the wind. These wind waves range in size from small ripples to waves as high as a ten story building. Their size is governed by the force and duration of the wind.

It has been pretty well agreed that the gustiness of winds sets waves in motion. However, the mechanism by which waves form has not yet been solved. Somehow wavelets occur. Once they do scientists understand how they grow. When a wave has started, it will continue even without the wind unless there is some obstacle in its path, such as wind from a different quarter.

The roughest waves encountered along a coast line are caused by high velocity winds blowing the same direction over vast distances of open water. Some striking examples of the power of heavy surf are: a concrete block of 20 tons lifted vertically to a height of 12 feet and landed on top of a pier 4 feet, 10



OCEAN WAVES being studied by Bev Morgan, on board, and coming in fast. Bev Morgan is an excellent swimmer, paddleboard rider, skin diver, lung diver and water safety instructor. Read his account of OCEAN WAVES, this page.

Photo by Joe Quig.

inches above high water mark at the entrance to the canal to Amsterdam Harbor; stones weighing up to nearly 7,000 pounds thrown over a wall 20 feet high at Cherbourg on the southern shore of the English Channel; and—most famous of all—an enormous mass of large stones set in cement, bound together with iron rods, the whole weighing 1350 tons, broken loose and moved bodily at Wick Breakwater, Scotland.

Generally waves are no higher than 12 or 15 feet anywhere, and anything over 20 or 25 feet is usual. However, that is not to say that waves go no higher.

It has been hard to evaluate reports of record waves, because of the difficulty of measuring them. In a storm big enough to produce record waves, no one aboard a ship is apt to be standing out on the decks with a tape measure!

Waves of 60 feet have been encountered by numerous ships in the North Atlantic but what has been conceded to be the best-measured and largest wave is one encountered by the USS Rampo in the North Pacific in February 1933.

For seven days the ship had been bucking stormy weather. The storm had a fetch (distance covered) of thousands of miles. One night during the worst of the storm one of the officers saw a great sea rising astern at a level above an iron strap on the crow's nest of the mainmast. The Rampo was on an even keel and his stern was in the trough of the sea. These circumstances made possible an exact line of sight from the bridge to the crest of the wave so simple mathematical calculations based on the dimension of the ship gave the height of the wave. It was 112 feet!

As a wave moves toward land it soon comes in shallow water. When it reaches a point where the depth of the water is equal to one half the length of the wave

(length being the distance between waves) then it begins to change form. The wavelength is shortened, the height is increased, and the wave grows steeper until it is unstable and falls forward.

As waves travel through the water near the shoreline there is a slight movement of water particles along with them. On the surface the crest of a wave carries the skin diver or surfer toward the beach while the trough carried him seaward. If the skin diver were submerged, but not on the bottom, the passing wave would move him in a circular motion. The crest would move him shoreward and down, the trough would move him seaward and up. Near the surface the motion is in a circle. Near the bottom the motion is elliptical and at the bottom the skin diver would be pushed to and from with no up and down motion.

Although the motion is lessened considerably with depth, large waves can create enough push to be very dangerous to skin divers. Also, the diver must keep in mind that as a wave passes overhead, the height of that wave is added to the depth of the diver, causing a pressure change equal to the height of the wave.

Another danger to the skin diver is the rip current (sometimes mistakenly called a riptide). A ripcurrent is a current running from shallow water near the shore out to sea. They cause about eighty per cent of the near drowning in Southern California, and are equally as dangerous in parts of the world where a surf runs. On sandy bottoms, outgoing currents may be caused by heavy surf cutting channels and holes in the bottom. The water, in a wave sweeping up the sloping beach, will return faster and in greater volume at a point where it flows into one of these channels or holes. The next wave repeats the process, maintaining a steady current going out to sea. This type of ripcurrent is very strong.

and may be recognized by its action on incoming waves. Although counter currents sometimes steepen waves considerably, the channel that the current is using in returning to sea will tend to flatten the wave out in its path, the wave being larger on either side. The water in the riptide is generally discolored to a dirty grey from churned-up sand.

Ripcurrents are also caused by groins or piers or any obstruction (such as a rocky point) extending into the surf by obstructing a lateral current and diverting it seaward.

A ripcurrent is useful in going out through the surf, but returning against such a current is sometimes impossible. The diver must avoid these currents on the return to the beach. If no progress is being made toward shore the diver may assume that he is in a rip. To escape the current, he merely swims parallel to shore just as he would swim across a river. The diver may then take advantage of incoming waves to push him shoreward.

The tidal wave is probably the most widely known type of wave. To give it its correct title, you should call it the "seismic sea wave" since it is not related to the tides at all. History is full of references to these mighty omens of misfortune as they have in the past devastated entire coastal cities, left ships high and dry on the beach more than a quarter of a mile inland, and have taken untold lives.

Most seismic sea waves are born in the deep trenches of the ocean floor. Earthquakes under the water produce the initial shock that sends unharvested energy across the water until it reaches some faraway beach.

In 1946 the natives of Hawaii were alarmed when the breakers were suddenly stilled. The water had withdrawn past the reefs. They didn't know that this recession of the water from the reefs and shallow coastal waters was the sea's reaction to an earthquake on the floor of the ocean more than 2000 miles away.

When the crest of the wave did come it rose more than 25 feet above the normal level of the tide. Houses were carried out to sea and in some areas large rocks and blocks of concrete were carried out onto the reefs.

The greatest catastrophe of this sort on record was caused by large waves created by a hurricane on October 7, 1737. On the shores of the Bay of Bengal 20,000 boats were destroyed, and about 300,000 people were drowned.

To learn more about how to cope with waves while skin diving refer to the October, 54 issue of SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE, the safety article by Bill Walker, Safety Director, California Council of Skin Diving Clubs. ▶

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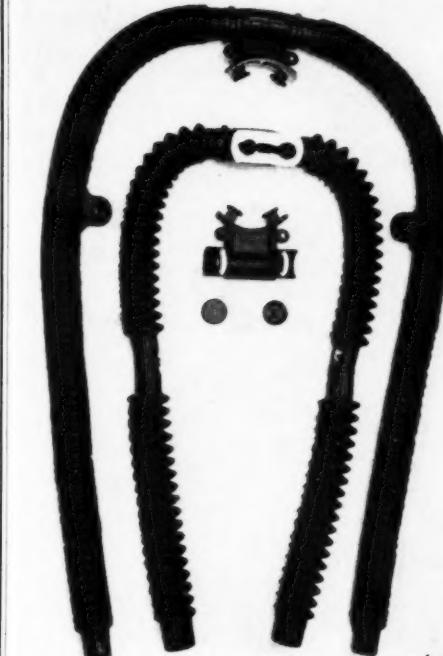
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- **FREE**—"DELUX TORPEDO" Speargun, \$25.00 value with purchase of a BEL-AQUA rubber suit or SEA TOGS foam rubber suit.
- **FREE**—1 Res-Q-Pak (emergency life preserver) and 1 Depth Gage or 1 underwater lantern with purchase of each speargun.
- Complete "Skin Diving Outfit" including aluminum pole spear, Duck Feet, Squalo mask and snorkel only \$18.00.
- Floating aluminum 3 sectional pole spear, \$7.50.
- **FREE**—with any purchase of \$1.00 or over . . . 1 beach ring float.
- **FREE**—charts of skin diving spots along Palos Verdes area with any purchases.

*Kenya, Africa*

By J. E. CARBERRY

Quite a few hunters from U.S. come to Kenya for hunting Safaris and incidentally the Mau-Mau trouble has not extended to the Coast. Malindi is Kenya's leading seaside resort and we think it is quite a good spearfishing area, coral reefs and deep channels similar to the Pacific islands. Temp. 80 deg. Avoid April, May, June, July, August, September as rainy season and strong winds, rest of the year okay. Mr. Paul has two gas boats which he rents generally to anglers but his two sons (early twenties) are our best spearfishermen. The writer 60 years old with 16 years of spearfishing and can't make the depths or stay under as long as the youngsters. We generally have a dinghy near so that if a large fish is harpooned we can get to the boat. The biggest fish the writer got was a 203-lb. Marble Ray which having got into the boat it pulled us around for 20 minutes. We consider the large spring guns the ideal guns fitted with a reel carrying 25-yds. braided nylon line and 8 feet of wire leader 200 test. We make a small wooden frame on which the leader is coiled in figures of eight. This leader offers small resistance to the initial flight of the harpoon, also if a fish goes under a rock it saves the line getting cut. I guess this use of a dinghy is kind of cheating, but in tropical waters it is a good thing, just in case.

Hotels at Malindi are Eden-Roc and Sinbad—rates about \$10.00 day, room bath and food. ➤

T. H. FORREST of the Arab Legion in Jordan, claims to be one of the world's deepest free divers—depths of over 1280 feet have been reached by Forrest and his group. Skin diving was done in the Dead Sea . . . the surface is 1280 feet below sea level. ➤

#### GREAT LAKES REGION

Underwater skin diving organizations in the Great Lakes region are asked to contact Jerold H. White, 7970 "G" Street, Dexter, Michigan for the formation of a Council or Association for that area. Competitions will be run through this new group to pick a regional champion for the National Underwater Spearfishing Championships.

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# Survey the Australian

A series of articles

By LEN STAPLES

6 Cheverton Parade, Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

## ARTICLE I General Australian Outline

Prepared with the help of information supplied by Dick Charles, Don Linklater and Harry Graetzer.

The coastline of the Australian continent is both extensive and extreme in its variations of climate, geology, marine flora and fauna . . . in this vast country of some 2,974,581 square miles; (1,149,320 of them under tropic skies), a coastline of 12,210 miles unites pounding surf and tranquil waters, blazing tropic sun and cool grey skies, shifting sands and towering forbidding ramparts of ba-

saltic rocks and eroded sandstones. With what an infinite variety of territory is the shore rambler confronted!

Some nine millions of Australians share this vast continent . . . more than half of them living in towns or cities . . . It is unfortunately a fact that our widely spread cities with proportionately high population densities result in vast expanses of countryside with proportionately low density, giving rise to the inevitable economies of road construction, a consideration quite inescapable by any interstate traveller who is faced with the necessity for travelling roads of infinite surface variation, as opposed to the quite excellent airway services; and the railway services which are as variable as the very states themselves!

Because of its geographical position, its island form and the absence of any striking physical features, Australia has, on the whole, latitude for latitude, a more temperate climate than most other countries. It is generally regarded as a land of sunshine, no capital city gets less than an average of some six hours a day for the whole year. Perth, the sunniest capital, has an average of nearly eight hours daily. (So says an official Australian publication, but I will not vouch for Hobart having such a high average!)

Pioneers of the sport of skin diving and spearfishing in Australia came with the '30s. In this regard it seems difficult to decide the identity of the instigator of the sport, and the names of Denny Wells, and Frank Gunliffe are often mentioned. It is quite certain that in these early days such activity was looked upon by the uninitiated as a novelty rather than a sport, and exponents regarded with a certain amount of doubt as to mental stability. (We who are biased, of course, are fully aware that those who elect as a matter of choice to anchor themselves to the promenade in the heat of summer

with sparkling waters a plunge away, in preference to exploring below the surface in a state of complete mental relaxation and sheer ecstasy; are the ones for whom regard should be felt.)

After the second world war, some impetus was given to the sport as a result of war experiences of troops stationed in Pacific Islands, Mediterranean countries and other locations where sub-surface activities was accepted as normal activity. Even so, it appears that the spearfishermen then amounted to no more than a mere handful, some 20 or 30 sincere sportsmen.

But the birth of the spearmen was not to be without labor pains; the anglers found it hard to accept the intrusion and free fights were frequent . . . police were often called in to quell trouble. Spearmen were bashed on the head with oars, rocks and sinkers . . . Fishing clubs lodged loud protests . . . the Government commenced closing lakes and rivers against the spearmen and the situation deteriorated rapidly.

To three of the spearmen in the fracas, the only solution appeared to be the forming of an association, so that collective action could be used to establish the sport and contend with the strong opposition which had developed. These three were Dick Charles, Les Hawley and Bill Heffernan.

Dick announced through the Sydney newspapers that a meeting had been organized to take place at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 8th April, '48. Afterwards a mass dive of 50 spearmen would take place. At this time, such an item was NEWS and received prominence, so despite adverse weather a large crowd was in attendance.

It was at this meeting that Dick Charles formed the Underwater Spearfishing Association of NSW, parent association of all spearfishing clubs . . . thanks to this club's foresight in adopting a code of ethics generally regarded as being the finest of any sporting club in Australia, combined with the intense drive of Dick and able office bearers and committees, frequent acts of good citizenship and not a few "differences" with individuals and some bodies, the USFA has emerged as one of the biggest spearfishing clubs in the world, boasting a membership of over 1,000.

Today, each state has its own USFA, some states have more than one club . . . it was the desire to band these clubs into a unified body that Dick, in June '53, founded the USFA of Australia, in which body he holds office as President. This association, in conjunction with the USFA of Victoria, will hold Australian championships at Queenscliff, Vic.; between 27th Dec. and 2 Jan. next. This convention, the second in the brief life of



DICK CHARLES, founder of organized underwater spearfishing in Australia.

the USFA Australia, is expected to attract some 300 to 400 spearmen and their families.

Australia is completely surrounded by seas which are fairly warm throughout the year compared with those surrounding other countries. There are no outstanding warm or cold currents such as the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic, or the Kuro Siwo of Japan. Ocean currents vary around the Australian coast. They are shifting and ill defined but even so their effect on the climate is extremely important.

With the exception of the two most southern states (Victoria and Tasmania), Australia favors the swimmer with a reasonably long season . . . from the more fortunate folk in Queensland who can swim the year round, to the Sydney-siders, who can comfortably swim from September to May, to the poor frigid fools in the writers home town of Hobart, who count themselves lucky to find conditions O.K. for swimming from December to March . . . (Let me out of it!) And so, to give a better coverage of the Australian scene in re-



LOOKING towards Wollongong from Sublime Point, New South Wales. Australia has many miles of beaches for the underwater hunter. By courtesy N.S.W. Govt. Tourist Bureau, photo by Frank Hurley.



AUSTRALIAN pioneer spearfisherman Frank Cunliffe stringing a small fish before again entering the water. Most of the states in Australia have active underwater spearfishing associations operating under the USFA of Australia. Photo by Associated Newspapers, Ltd., Sydney.

gard to the underwater sportsman, a series of articles will be presented, lightly touching on the physical characteristics of each state and the underwater sports and sportsmen therein . . . A great deal of credit for the development of underwater sports in Australia must be accorded to Don Linklater, of Bondi, NSW. Don is one of the pioneer underwater men; and, very important to the development of the sport . . . he is possibly the first of the manufacturers of underwater equipment. Right from the start Don has aimed at turning out equipment at popular prices and of high efficiency . . . his record of donations of equipment to clubs and deserving individuals is such that his name is now synonymous with extreme generosity. Don's firm, Undersea Products, now heads the list of the half dozen or so Australian manufacturers of underwater equipment, his range, which is mainly conceived for the "popular price" group, covers a range of guns, breathing tubes, several masks and miscellaneous equipment including sealskin wrap-on cold-water suits. Some of his more popular trigger designs, one of which is a friction device, are being copied in some of the overseas strongholds of underwater development. Another of Don's innovations is the "cutlass barb," an arrowhead which gives excellent penetration into such heavily scaled fish as the groper.

(Continued on Page 19)

# Catalina Channel

## Swim Completed

### By Skin Diver

After battling swirling currents and a near-paralyzing chill for 15 hours and 42 minutes, husky George Wilhelm, a six-foot, 195-pound radio announcer threaded his way through a rocky California surf, doffed his rubber hood and swim mask and, as casually as though he'd just swum the length of a pool, told waiting newsmen, "I could have broken the record if I hadn't run into a cross-current the last three miles."

The ruggedly handsome native of Oregon, who spent much of his youth setting endurance records in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, had just completed the tortuous 23-mile swim between Catalina Island and the California mainland, a strength-sapping grind which tests to the fullest the abilities, stamina and courage of would-be conquerors.

Wilhelm, at 47 years of age, is believed to be the oldest competitor ever to cross the deceptively-difficult stretch of sea between California and the famed holiday isle.

More than 200 swimmers have made the attempt, but few have been successful. According to the records, Wilhelm's crossing was the thirteenth. His feat was unique for he was the first to cross the channel wearing artificial swimming aids. He was clad in a rubber "diving" suit and he wore a pair of swim fins which enabled him to conserve his strength and gain greater thrust from his kicks.

Wilhelm's attempt was designed to prove that an "old boy," as he called himself, could successfully swim from one end of this imposing stretch to the other, providing he used swim fins and the other modern equipment available to today's swimmers. Such equipment served Wil-

I HAVE CONQUERED . . . George Wilhelm stands triumphantly on the California shore after completing his 23-mile swim from Catalina Island. The swim took Wilhelm 15 hours, 42 minutes and was the first ever accomplished while wearing skin diver equipment.

helm in bridging the gap of years and substituting for the strength of yesterday.

When Wilhelm clambered ashore at 3:37 p.m. (PST) Friday, Oct. 1, the gear which encased his well-muscled body weighed almost 20 pounds, some nine pounds of it being water since everything he wore, excepting the hard-rubber swim fins, was porous and gained weight when wet.

It was in the black of night when the 65-foot sport fishing vessel, the Frontier, hove to off Catalina's Emerald Bay for the start of the swim. The voyage from the mainland had taken about four hours, some two hours longer than usual, because Skipper Art Gronsky had been forced to cruise at one-third speed because of the choppy sea.

Wilhelm used the extra time to advantage and slept unconcernedly during most of the outbound voyage. About one-half hour before the estimated time of arrival, Wilhelm roused himself and began preparations for his attempt.

First, Wilhelm's body was covered with lanolin. Over this he donned a two-piece suit of neoprene underwear. Then his trainer, Gerry Lawrence, helped him squeeze into a rubber submarine suit, a two-piece garment tailored along the general lines of long woolen underwear. Wilhelm capped his outfit with a rubber medieval-type hood. He also wore two



pairs of socks, one of wool and one of rubber, over which he placed his large swim fins, the same kind worn by members of the United States Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams. He also wore a swim mask and a pair of rubber mittens.

Wilhelm slipped into the water a few yards from the beach and swam ashore. Once on the beach, he was barely discernible, an even blacker shadow against the ebony cliff. Wilhelm dove into the water and began the steady, powerful stroke which carried him across the channel. He left at 11:55:20 p.m. (PST). A gun fired from the tender boat signaled the official departure.

Alternately using an Australian Crawl and a strength-conserving backstroke, Wilhelm splashed away the miles—and the hours. His first feeding came at 3:30 a.m. and was delivered in thermos bottles. Since the rules require the swimmer touch nothing nor anyone while in the water, the feeding process was a touchy and careful maneuver, particularly in the dark.

In the 15 hours 42 minutes he was in the water, Wilhelm consumed one-half pint of honey; four pints of tea; eight ounces of chocolate; five cans of chicken noodle soup; two quarts of water and ten candy bars. In addition, he was given certain drugs containing vitamins, iron, liver and other helpful ingredients.

The voyage was made without incident, although there were a few minor scares. Once a playful sea lion began closing on the plodding Wilhelm and again the fins of a shark appeared nearby.

Shortly after dawn, the outline of the mainland was visible. However, the absence of any radar equipment and the navigational problems involved in cruising at such a slow speed, made it impossible to ascertain the exact distance to shore.

As Wilhelm moved closer to the shore, the power of the offshore current, going from west to southeast, became troublesome. Although a straight course would have saved Wilhelm miles of swimming, the current was so powerful he elected to go with it, even though it meant many additional miles.

At times near the end it appeared as though Wilhelm would not make it. His strokes became slower and slower and seemed to lack power or force. His stops became frequent as did his calls for food and drink. He seemed, however, to gather strength from each pause and, after such a respite, he would strike out with renewed vigor.

It took Wilhelm almost three hours to go the last two miles, yet he gathered speed and dispelled all doubt as to his ability to complete the crossing when he saw how close he was.

By now the newsmen following the swim's progress could be clearly seen on the heights of the cliff directly behind the proposed landing area. As Wilhelm neared his goal, the newsmen, photographers and newsreel men began descending the rickety stairs which reached to the rocky beach below.

Flanked by two swimmers from the party, Wilhelm touched bottom at 3:37.20 p.m. (PST), exactly 15 hours 42 minutes after he'd plunged into the sea in the blackness of Emerald Bay. He landed between Whites Point and Point Fermin.

"I couldn't possibly have done it without the Voit swim fins," the courageous Wilhelm said as he rested aboard the Frontier. "Although they were designed primarily for speed and mobility rather than endurance, the swim fins gave me added power with every kick."

Q. How many individuals of any given species of fish are there in existence?

A. It is difficult to give an adequate idea of the number of individuals in a given species, but it has been estimated that nearly 400,000,000 cod and more than 3,000,000,000 herring are caught each year in the Atlantic. Actually, these numbers must represent but a small fraction of the actual number existing at a given time.

— "Sea Secrets" —

**YOU ASKED FOR IT**—Art Baker, center, with his two aids, Bill Webb and Mr. Goddett, presented an underwater show on TV recently. Some of the divers participating in the films were (L-R) second row: Homer Lockwood, Woody Dimel, Bill Barada, and Jim Auxier; back row divers are Jerry Thomas, John Logan and Jim Stewart. Photo by Dr. N. E. Mathison.



**SKIN DIVER** editor examines product underwater before spear shaft riddled target submerged 20 feet under, between "You Asked For It" scenes. Co-actor Dr. N. E. Mathison took picture. Magazine proved not to be waterproof. Headquarters for the movie was the Van Camp Tuna research vessel "Chickens of the Sea."



**JEUX SUS-MARINS**, prize winning movie among the films on undersea subjects at the International Film Festival at Cannes. Movie was made by Dave Koubi.

# Autobiography of a Skin Diver

(By request of the SKIN DIVER Magazine)

By JACK DUDLEY

One warm summer afternoon in 1939, I was wandering along the beach near Laguna. As I jumped off a rock into the sand, I noticed several live abalones caught in the backwash of a receding wave. I was amazed, for I didn't know abalones lived on the sand . . . and out of the water! And I'd never seen live ones before. I quickly gathered them up and carried them to a safer place. While curiously examining them, I heard a voice behind me.

"Say, thanks for bringing our abs up. Didn't realize the tide would be comin' up this high." Turning, I saw a tall bronzed chap come striding up from the water's edge, while a second man was dragging a balsa surfboard through the waves.

"What—ah—well—a—glad I could help," I stammered lamely.

"But where'd you guys come from anyway?"

"Oh, we've been out on our boards doing a little spearing—went out this morning for abs and we put 'em too close to the water, I guess."

Thus my introduction to skin diving. I quickly became enthusiastic after talking to the two divers and asking endless questions. Soon I was beginning to dive. First with goggles and later with a mask. For the next few years, I dove principally for abalone and bugs, never giving much thought to the possibilities of spearing fish.

I did most of my diving around Laguna with an occasional trip to Palos Verdes. I almost always went diving alone, for none of my friends shared my enthusiasm. In winter, and almost from the beginning, I dove all year 'round, my wife would build a huge fire on the beach for me so I could quickly change from a deep blue to a lobster red color after emerging from the icy water.

The first basic piece of equipment I ever made to aid my diving was a simple device for attaching eye glasses in my mask. Being very near sighted ceased to be a handicap when I used my old G.I. glasses under water. I have used the same device ever since.

Being interested in improving my equipment became a passion and I would spend most evenings tinkering. I remember, I bought a rubberized nylon exposure suit one time and made a two piece suit of it. It had a belt similar to the present day Pirelli suit and was tied around the waist with a heavy rubber cord. I used this suit for several years till eventually the rubber began to peel off the fabric.

It was shortly after the war that I made my first fish spear, an aluminum hand type and I think the first fish I speared was a Garibaldi. I found it was quite a thrill, actually spearing a fish and then eating it afterwards. From that time on I was a confirmed spearfisherman.



JACK DUDLEY examines pismo clams on California beach. Jack is wearing a home-made plastic cold water suit.

For a good many years, I used a mechanical aluminum pole spear with a trigger arrangement. It would shoot about 3 feet. I got a lot of fish with this spear and I still use it whenever I want to get a lot of fish in a hurry. I have taken fish weighing as much as 40 lbs.—rays up to 65 lbs. with this spear. This was the spear that got my world record Roosterfish!

I have always tried to develop equipment that was suited to my own needs—not with any intent of capitalizing on it. For instance, after a trip to the Gulf of California in 1949, we decided the only way to hold the big ones was with a power head. I designed one and the members of the club helped me perfect it. It has worked out very well. I have used mine for 4 years and it has never failed to detonate, even at depths of 60 feet and more.

In 1948, I became acquainted with Paul DeBach and joined the Snorkels of which he was president. We have been fast friends ever since and have gone on many diving expeditions together. In my opinion Paul is the finest diver I have ever had the pleasure to know. He will tackle anything and the way he can spot fish is simply amazing. Paul has been diving, I believe, since about 1937, which makes him a real veteran.

My first trip to Guaymas was in 1949 with Paul. It was my first experience in waters, not only warm, but where big fish are fairly common. I can remember my first dive out near San Carlos Bay. One dive. I rushed back to camp shouting,

"My God, the water's filled with 30 lb. fish." As it turned out, they were probably no more than 5 or 10 lb. fish such as Cabrillo, Pargo Mulatto and Parrot Fish. But they seemed big.

I suppose there are better places to dive than the Guaymas area, but I have found my best diving there. I have never speared any really large fish, the biggest a 35 lb. Baya. My biggest ray was an 88 lb. Spotted Eagle ray. Both these were

taken at Guaymas along with 30 to 40 lb. fish of various species.

I have virtually no experience with big sharks, in fact I have hardly ever seen any in the water. One exception was probably my greatest thrill. While in Bocochibampo Bay near Guaymas, Paul DeBach, Bud Barlett and I spotted a huge 30 feet Whale shark, a rarity in those waters. We didn't know it was harmless, which was the reason for all the excitement. We shot it three times with detonating heads. Naturally it got away. Another great thrill was helping to land a 1500 lb. Manta, also taken with power heads.

In all my years of diving, I have never had a dangerous experience with fish or animals although I did have a sort of narrow escape. One day in 1947, I was swimming to shore through an unusually mild surf at Laguna. I was watching the bottom, paying no attention to the waves. Suddenly one of those big ones, that sometimes roll in on a quiet day, caught me and I was flung head-first onto a boulder. Result—a broken back! Although I was laid up for a while, I lost none of my enthusiasm for diving—but I did gain great respect for the power of the waves.

Most of my hunting today is with a gun of my own design which has a cocking lever and very strong rubber bands. Arrow shaft size is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " by 4 feet long. It works very well on average fish and equipped with a power head, can take care of the biggest.

I suppose I could be called "old fashioned" for I have never used a Lung. In fact, I have never had any particular desire to use one for spearfishing. I have always looked upon spearing as a sport wherein a man matches his intelligence against the superior physical ability of the fish in the water. To spot the fish, stalk him and place an arrow in him in the minute or two your breath holds out—that to me is the real test of a diver's ability.

In the last couple of years, I have turned to painting underwater scenes. By profession, I am a commercial artist and the strange and beautiful underwater landscapes I have seen have always been a challenge to me. And here is where I would like to have a lung! The one thing I want to do before long is to actually try painting underwater—right on the spot. Of course, it's nothing new. Many people have tried it before, but to me it would be the greatest thrill ever, and certainly provide the most satisfaction. ➤

## Some Observations on the Harmless Nurse Shark

or

How it came to pass that Warmke and Teas required twenty-five stitches

By HOWARD TEAS

This article is to be taken as a recantation with respect to certain opinions about the harmless nurse shark which were expressed in the September 1954 SKIN DIVER, under the title "Underwater Puerto Rico."

It was late in August. Harry Warmke and Howard Teas were spearfishing at Boqueron, Puerto Rico, over a shallow reef. They had picked up nothing more exciting than a few snappers when Warmke spied a small gata (nurse shark) in about fifteen feet of water. Warmke said, "Let's get him. I'll spear him, you stand by." These fellows had no fear of the gata; they knew the gata's mouth was too small to bite, and, furthermore, that its teeth were too small to cause damage. Warmke dived and speared the shark in the gills with an aluminum handspear, while his companion kept his own spear in readiness. With the sting of the spearhead, the gata began to thrash and roll, and wrapped himself and a couple of Warmke's legs up in the ten-foot cable of the detachable spearhead. This constituted a surprising turn of events, so when Teas saw an opening he let fly with his spear, only to have it torn from his hand and added to the tangle of shark, legs, and cable. At this point we can only speculate on what transpired in the gata's feeble central nervous system. An explanation as likely as any is that, severely wounded and struggling to get free, our gata conceived himself to be reincarnated as a tiger shark. Be that as it may, the harmless nurse shark proceeded to take revenge upon available portions of his tormentors.

Warmke's legs were closest. The gata-turned-tiger shark made a couple of trial chomps on the right thigh, then really grabbed the left calf, removing a piece about three inches in diameter and half an inch thick. Warmke's comments on this latest development spurred Teas to redoubled efforts which resulted in him catching and holding the gata's tail. However, after about a minute, the gata twisted enough to vindictively latch onto Teas' right kneecap. (Teas' comments at this point are no more printable than Warmke's earlier ones.) By this time the

boatman had brought the boat into position so Teas grabbed it with his right hand, kept a hold on the shark's tail with his left hand, and firmly held the shark's mouth with his right knee. This maneuver left Warmke free to stab the critter and try to pry him off. (Stabbing under the head, in the region of the gills, proved the only spot where a knife could be driven into vital anatomy.) About five minutes later, when the gata had been completely exsanguinated, the prying effort was successful. By this time the water for many feet around had acquired a reddish tinge, so spearfishing was abandoned for the day, the now quiescent gata was hauled into the boat, and a round of tourniquets was enjoyed by all.

About two hours later, after a long boat trip and a noonday traffic jam, they showed up at the local repair agency. While the doctor was getting out sterile instruments, sutures, etc., they amused themselves watching the pulsations of an exposed but not severed artery in the bottom of the wound in Warmke's left leg. An hour later, sporting some twenty-three stitches, Warmke limped off and Teas was anticlimactically administered two stitches. The worst part of the whole affair, of course, was the loss of diving time. Teas missed a week; Warmke was on crutches a week and missed five weeks of diving.

The shark that did all this bloodletting measured only fifty-eight inches in length and weighed a mere thirty-four pounds. He was pretty good dinner fare, although the women were a bit squeamish about it, because the beggar had bitten off a piece of Warmke and here we were sort of second-hand cannibals.

We think the behavior of this aberrant nurse shark should be on record, so that other divers may pause to consider the possibility that their own innocent spear-thrust into a gata might bring on this same "tiger shark syndrome"—actually, nothing more than a natural defense reaction of a wounded and struggling animal.

The following sequel to the gata fiasco is revealing. Last weekend Warmke and Teas were diving off the Cabo Rojo lighthouse, where they saw four gatas each eight or nine feet long. Neither of these divers grabbed the tails of, speared, stabbed, kicked, or otherwise molested a single one of the gatas. In fact, the only indication that they'd even seen them was afterward when Warmke was overheard to inquire, "Did you notice the gatas out by the point today?"

If there is a moral to this story it is probably this: Don't believe everything you hear or read about diving, not even if you see it in the SKIN DIVER, or not even if you wrote it yourself! ➤

# Canton Island

By J. BEUDEKER

A beautiful lagoon in shades of green, blue and turquoise, enclosed by a coral atoll and all this surrounded by a ring of white, sparkling surf—that is Canton Island, as you see it from the air. And that's the way you will most likely get your first glimpse of this atoll, as aviation in its need for a refueling stop between Honolulu and Fiji is all that necessitates the existence of landing facilities here and a small outgrowth of civilization that goes with it. It was also from the approaching plane that Dr. Hans Hass spotted this island as a good place for skin diving and decided to stop over. This marked the start of underwater activities here and have been increasing ever since, in scope as well in territory covered. Our equipment at present consists of aqualungs, various underwater movie and still cameras and of course spearguns and the usual smaller gear.

Fish we observed in their element include mantarays, stingrays, spotted rays, barracuda, tuna, sharks, ulua (pompano), turtles, bass, grouper, parrotfish, eels and but for the spotted ray and tuna we have all of them on record on movie and still pictures to back up this statement, which I realize sounds rather fantastic. But another specialty we can claim is that our local club is the most international one in existence. First there is Rene Colin, the chief in the P.A.A. hotel, a compatriot of Capt. Cousteau and who has been in the game for over four years in such places as New Caledonia, Tahiti, New Zealand and Canton Island, and shoots with speargun and camera with equal skill. Then there is Earl 'Dutsy' Rhoades, from California, who started to make underwater pictures in 1947 in Guam and has now three different cameras waterproofed from which he gets excellent results. From New Zealand there was Alan Williams, who couldn't swim when he arrived here and in six months time

went down deeper and stayed down longer than any of us. Your reporter in this case hails from Holland, to which some people credit my easy adaptation of underwater living, as I was born and lived below sea level. The man who runs the aqualung recharge station is Lourke who comes from Oregon. From Hawaii there was Charlie Akana, whose cartridge gun revolted whenever it saw a fish lined up, but he tamed it. From England came Don Boyes Barnes with plenty of aquatic knowledge. And from the islands themselves there were the Gilbertese natives, of whom Muni deserves special mention as our expert pearl diver, and the boys from Fiji, all eagerly joined us in the sport. How this conglomeration of underwater addicts got together on a small spot like this is beyond the scope of this article.

That with year 'round fishing and practically living in the water there is lots to tell will be easy to understand. Rene



LARGEST EEL speared to date at Canton Island, 38-lbs., 5' 6". By J. Beudeker. Eel was speared in head with Hawaiian Sling.



J. BEUDEKER meets manta head on with camera. Rays are helpful in posing for pictures after they get used to you.

claimed two world records here, a 39 lbs. parrot fish and a 75 lbs. wrasse. We have come back with so much fish that we had to swim beside it and we are more or less the regular suppliers of fish to the native villagers, who always welcome this free supplement to their menu. Moray eel, pompano and wrasse are very popular with them, but practically all fish we catch are edible and poisoned fish, one of the problems of the islands is very rare here. I myself had the pleasure of bagging a 45 lbs. pompano, which I shot through the brain with the spear-shaft, after I had lost my spearhead during a previous encounter with one of his buddies. After this experience I tried out just a sharpened shaft with some fine cut-in barbs only, and found this very satisfactory for fish up to 25 lbs. provided one gets a good aim at it.

This type of spear on a double-rubber gun and made about 4 to 5 feet long has very good penetrating power and accuracy, goes clear through the solid parts of the head and is hard to retract. For bigger fish a folding barb is better. Knock-out shots are necessary when we fish in the ocean and swim out through

the surf. We cannot fight fish too much there, as we have the sharks around in no time to claim their part of the catch. Not that the sharks are very dangerous here, in fact, we found them easy to scare away, but it is always better not to get them too excited. I remember once I went overboard to film a turtle couple on their honeymoon, when I found myself in a school of about 40 sharks which turned out to be rather camera shy. Then I realized that was the place where the garbage used to be dumped in the outgoing tide, which always was something of a feast to them. (Or may be they were just interested in turtle biology.) All with all it disproved the ancient myth again that sharks are not necessarily dangerous.

The greatest sight underwater however is a school of mantarays. We have seen them in schools of up to ten and if you don't make too much splash or sudden movements, you can get right up to them and touch them. Unnecessary to say that we got plenty of films and pictures of them. Also the turtles can be very friendly and make good pictures. The most beautiful of all however is the reef itself. This underwater garden with every type of coral imaginable and fish unlimited in varieties and colours is a scenery that equals the best we know of God's creation. ▶



MANTA RAY standing in the current of the incoming tide, Canton Island. The island has two openings in the atoll through which the fish swim in and out.



TURTLE meets Alan Williams at Canton Island. Contrary to what this picture seems to suggest they do not spear the turtles, but try to hook them in the collar.

# Submarine Exploring in Eire

By ROGER BRUCE

On the shores of Mantry Bay, in South West Eire, stands a large white house. This is Ardnagashel House Hotel, owned and managed by Colonel Kaulback. The Colonel, or Ron as he is most commonly called, is a very large man of 6-ft. 3-in. in height. He possesses a Cousteau-Gagnan Aqua-Lung and a mid-season foam rubber suit and he strongly recommends elastic powered guns. He is, in fact, the representative in Ireland for face masks, frog feet and elastic powered guns.

The hunting ground is anywhere within 25 miles of the hotel and one might say that Bantry Bay was a miniature Fjord. There are numerous small creeks and bays, only accessible to those who know how, and it was here that we hunted. The water is crystal clear and one can see about 50 feet at the depth of 15-20-ft.—the bottom is patchy with seaweed and sand and the rocky shore abounds with vegetation. The fish which one hunts are wrasse, the maximum is about 5-lbs., and Pollock, these are fast moving fish which graze on the seaweed beds and flee at the sight of anyone. There are also dogfish, that small dark grey member of the shark family.

Unfortunately there are very few fish of any appreciable size, so the wrasse are the most common catches. The Colonel has speared two grey mullet which are rather like trout in flesh consistency and flavor but of the size of a small salmon and are very unusual.

At one of the favorite bays we noticed some unusual feathery discs at the bottom and on further exploration found them to be scallops, which are unlike the American Abalones because they have another shell and are then 'bivalves'. These made excellent eating with a flavor between that of lobster and crab.

The Colonel does not believe that hunting a fish, wearing a breathing set is sport, so he only uses the apparatus for exploration and once for rescuing a yacht that had overturned and sank in 70 feet of water, fully rigged.

If any of you readers wish an excellent holiday with good food and a different sport to your own . . . pay a visit to Eire, notably Bantry Bay. ■



Photo taken from the book "Palms et Masque". It is also a picture taken from "Jeux Sous-Marins", a film which premiered at Cannes. Credit Davo Koubi, Algeria.



HARRY BRAUN, Hamburg, Germany, at the Baltic Sea, inspects his underwater Leica and Italian rubber gun.



JOHNNY LOCKWOOD, 8 year old son of new Council of Diving Clubs President Homer Lockwood. Johnny is no new comer to lung diving.

## AUSTRALIA . . .

(Continued from Page 13)

His "Frogman helmet," a rubber head-piece snugly encasing the head to the level of the upper lip, has also found favour with underwater sportsmen, as it is claimed to have special advantages in rough water and protects against the cold . . . having fished with him, competed in manufacture with him, and in other ways come in contact with Don, I can say without hesitation, Here is a sportsman!

Another prominent supplier of the underwater sportsman needs in this country is Harry Graetzer, also of Sydney. Harry controls "Torpedo Products," of Sydney, and concentrates more on equipment for the advanced spearman, or perhaps, those who wish to own equipment of particularly high finish. Here again one meets the sincere, or the genuine man, as opposed to the "get rich overnight" merchant as can be found in most cities . . . Torpedo products are now producing a rapidly growing range of equipment, from guns, excellent masks and swim fins, cold water suits, breathing tubes, miscellaneous underwater items, to a comprehensive range of inflatable goods for the beach side junior enthusiasts. These two manufacturers are the principal ones in this country, others having restricted ranges.

Population distribution in Australia is as follows:

Total population is a little more than 8½ millions.

Of these approximately 5½ million live in cities and large towns, including more than 4½ million in the six state capital cities. At June 1953 the following figures existed:

NSW, 3,383,437. (Sydney 1,610,580).

Victoria, 2,335,475. (Melbourne, 1,360,200).

Queensland, 1,238,425. (Brisbane 453,660).

South Australia, 739,563. (Adelaide, 442,500).

Western Australia, 601,602. (Perth 317,000).

Tasmania, 302,111. (Hobart, 87,120).

Australian Capital Territory, 26,784. (Canberra, 23,300).

Northern territory, 16,478. (Darwin, 7,084).

Such a total population bears little comparison in density to other countries, for example, 2.9 persons per square mile in Australia to 49.4 in America, or 534.6 in the United Kingdom, it surely leaves adequate room however, for each spearman to find virgin territory. ■

Next month:

ARTICLE II.  
New South Wales

# First Official European Spearfishing Championships

Sestri Levante  
Genoa, Italy

August 30, 1954

By GUSTAV DALLA VALLE

The first official European Championship was organized by the Confederation de la Peche Sportive, C.I.P.S., in collaboration with the F.I.P.S. (Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva) and the U.S.S. (Unione Sportivi-Subacquei). There were competitors from seven countries, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Libya, and Monaco. The rules were those established by the C.I.P.S., that is, the deciding factor was the weight of the total number of fish, including all species. Each country could send up to fifteen people, all of whom competed for the Individual Championship. From the representatives of each country, a team of three members was appointed for the National Championship. There were fifty-four competitors at the Meet. The hours were from 9:15 to 3:45, six hours and a half. Each competitor had at his disposal a rowboat and oarsman, with whom there was an official of the competition. The fifty-four boats, all exactly the same, were towed to the chosen location, Punta Manara, a point of land where the coast descends sharply into the water to a depth of about fifty feet. It is typical of the Italian and French Riviera and very similar to the areas of all the Mediterranean countries to which the competitors were accustomed. The temperature of the water, the bottom of the sea, the fish were all familiar, which reduced to a minimum any handicap for the foreign competitors. The boundaries of the area were several miles apart.

The competition was extremely interesting because for the first time it was possible to compare the skill of spearfishermen of different countries. The techniques of all the individuals were very much the same, and the superiority

AQUA-PED rider in the John Jay lecture series.



rested upon the skill and training of the person. It was quickly realized that the fight for supremacy was between the Italian and the Spanish competitors. The French surprised everybody because they were the favorites before the competition. Two athletes emerged as the outstanding champions. They were the Italian Gianni Roghi, and the Spaniard, Antonio Mairata. Apparently Mairata never missed a fish.

The total pounds of fish caught will perhaps surprise the American skin diver, but at this particular place, which I know well myself, the fish are extremely wary and difficult to find. This is not, as it has been said in some articles published in the States, that the spearfishermen have caught all the fish, but because during the war it was unfortunately popular to fish with dynamite. Consequently to catch fish now it is not only necessary to dive very deep, but to be smarter than the survivors of the war massacre. It must be considered that there were fifty-four determined spearfishermen in hard pursuit.

At the end of the competition the boats were towed back to a location on the jetty where there had been built fifty-four boxes, each numbered correspondingly to the boats. This prevented any confusion, and the weighing of the fish was performed on the boats. The winner was then proclaimed to the enthusiastic audience of about ten thousand people.

It would be very interesting if it is possible someday, to organize a competition between the American and the European spearfishermen, not only with three man teams but also an Individual Competition, as the European Championships had, which will establish the champion spearfisherman.

I would like to repeat the words of Dr. Doukin, chairman of the C.I.P.S., who declared at the end of the competition, "Today I learned three lessons from the Italian people, organization ability, courtesy, and sportsmanship." ▶

## RESULTS

### INDIVIDUAL CLASSIFICATION

Diver & Country	No. of Fish	k.g.
Roghi (Italy)	3	11.295
Jannuzzi (Italy)	21	10.800
Mairata (Spain)	5	9.330
Zucca (Italy)	14	6.700
Bonet (Spain)	6	5.655
Lamoureux (France)	3	5.455
Graziosi (Italy)	8	5.125
Falco (Italy)	4	4.900
Novelli (Italy)	7	4.015
Macari (France)	3	3.000
Giachini (Italy)	4	2.95
Costagli (Italy)	4	2.80
Agnel (France)	6	2.78
Gaja (France)	5	2.080
Olschki (Italy)	6	1.975
Pol (Spain)	3	1.585
Brochier (France)	3	1.530
Ballester (Spain)	4	1.510
Calia (Lybia)	3	1.480
Ruggiero (Italy)	3	1.44
Cadiou (France)	5	1.405
Sabineau (France)	3	1.120
Catalani (Italy)	2	.945
Moya (Spain)	2	.790
De Albuquerque (Portugal)	2	.670
Grange (France)	2	.585
Forestier (France)	2	.575
Vivares (France)	1	.410
Delas (France)	1	.370
Guccardi (Lybia)	1	.345
Puentes (France)	1	.290
Vassiliadis (Greece)	1	.240
Delauze (France)	1	.150

1 k.g. = 2.2046 lb.

## RESULTS

### CLASSIFICATION BY ASSOCIATION

1. Federacion Espanola de Pesca  
Bonet 5.655; Pol 1.585; Mairata 9.380. Total 16.620.
2. Federazione Italiana della Pesca Sportiva  
Giachini 2.970; Roghi 11.295; Olschki 1.975. Total 16.240.
3. Federation Francaise d'Etudes et Sports sous-Marins  
Delas 370; Lamoureux 5.455; Vivares 410. Total 6.235.
4. Circolo Cacciatori Subacquei—Tripoli  
Calia 1.480; Guccardi 345. Total 1.825.
5. Clube Portugues de Caca Submarina  
De Albuquerque 670.
6. Federation Hellenique de la Peche Sportive  
Vassiliadis 240.

## COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

Combined report from the Council meeting held at McCulloch Motors on October 12, 1954, and the California Wildlife Federation meeting on October 30 and 31 at San Diego.

Last month skin divers at White's Point in Palos Verdes were confronted with startling evidence of the havoc wreaked by raw sewage when it is dumped into the ocean. White's Point has been one of the most popular spots in Los Angeles County for both skin divers and rock fishermen, but unless some action is taken very soon, the increased volume of raw sewage dumped into the area may permanently eliminate this spot as a productive fishing and diving ground.

At the October Council meeting, Conrad Limbaugh, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, gave a report on observations made by his group in several sewage outfall areas including White's Point. Observations and photographs were taken over a wide area at depths up to 100 feet, and this report confirmed the suspicions of skin divers. The area around the White's Point outfall is a dead world, with nothing but scavengers and worms thriving in the muck of the bottom. Even the vegetation and kelp is gone, and very few fish are seen. Dead fish litter the bottom.

The White Point's report will be submitted to the Los Angeles County Pollution Control Board. John Logan, Conservation director, is looking for a club member to represent skin divers at County Water Pollution meetings.

John Backus, Research director, gave a detailed report on progress of the Beach Access Program for Palos Verdes. John reports that this program has been approved by the L. A. County Fish and Game, and by the Board of Supervisors and is now in the hands of Parks and Recreation. If Southern California skin divers ever succeed in gaining access to the Palos Verdes coast, they will owe a debt of gratitude to the efforts of John Backus. Maps of the access areas are available from the Council.

October 12th was the last Council meeting at which the old officers will preside. Newly elected officers will be installed at the December 15th Council meeting. Your new officers are: President, Homer Lockwood, Sharks Club; Vice President, Woody Dimel, Los Angeles Neptunes; Secretary, Dorothy Davies, Long Beach Neptunes; Treasurer, Bill Lemon, Sons of the Beaches; Recording Secretary, Marie Givens, Men-O-Mar; Membership Director, Terry Lewis, L. A. Neptunes.

Finance Director, Jerry Thomas, Mc-

Culloch Mermen; Research Director, John Backus, L. A. Neptunes, Special Events Director, Laura Sturgill, Co. Calif. Divers; Safety, Bill Walker, Kelptomaniacs; Publicity (Open due to resignation of Gene Daniels); Conservation, John Logan, Sea Lancers of Santa Monica; and Legislative, Herb Slater, N.A.A. Sea Sabres.

Area Vice Presidents are: Jim Stewart, Bottom Scratches; Mac Woodard, Pomona Valley Divers; John C. Smith, Newport Harbor Sub Mariners; Woody Dimel, L. A. Neptunes, Earl J. Rosekrans, Aqua Explorers; George Fraley, Monterey Sea Otters; Dave Campbell, The Barbs and Dick Hardie, Sacramento Skin Divers.

If your club delegate is not attending Council meetings you should select a replacement who will represent you. The Council needs more than your club dues to keep skin diving alive. At the next session of the State legislature, spear guns may be classified as *Fire Arms* and we will really be in hot water. Elect a live wire delegate who is on the ball. ▶



43 1/4-lb. YELLOWTAIL speared by Al Larson at Bird Rock, Pacific Beach, California. The La Jolla kelp beds have produced several of these streamlined underwater fish this year. Above catch was made August 4th.

## SKIN DIVING DERBY PRIZES AWARDED

Winners of the recent Skin Diving Derby held in California during the months of September and October received their prizes at the Derby Presentation Dance November 13. Winners, prizes, donors and catch are as follows:

### MEN'S DIVISION

Jim Stewart, Junior Aqua-Lung by U.S. Divers Corp., 266-lb. black sea bass.  
 James Rice, La Jolla Wet Suit by Waterwear Co., 10 1/2-in. red abalone.  
 Chuck Sylvester, Sport Diver Lung by Divers Supply, 10-in. green abalone.  
 Clark Ward, Rubber Suit by Bel-Aqua Water Sports Co., 21-lb. yellowtail.  
 Dick Taylor, Mark VII CO2 gun by Pacific Sales, 42-lb. white sea bass.  
 Harley Chandler, Rubber Suit by Dolphin Mfg. Co., 17-lb. lobster.  
 David Bottles, \$25 certificate by Kerr's Beverly Hills, 27 1/2-lb. shark.  
 Chuck Sturgill, Albatross Spring Gun by D. L. Davis Co., 88-lb. ray.  
 James Jacobs, Non-Return Valve by Hope-Page Eng., 22 1/2-lb. ling cod.  
 Chuck Vallance, Torpedo gun by Park Mfg. Co., 24-lb. male sheepshead.  
 Garry Howe, Non-Return Valve by Hope-Page Eng., 18-lb. female sheepshead.  
 Frank Leinheupel, Non-Return Valve by Hope-Page Eng., 45 1/2-lb. halibut.  
 Bill Yamachika, \$25 certificate by Mel's Aqua Shop, 9-lb. calico bass.  
 Jack Dudley, \$25 certificate by Willie's Spt. Gds., 3-lb. 2-oz. corbina.  
 Honk Nukonawa, \$25 certificate by Jerry's Diving Equipment, 4-lb. 6-oz. spottin croaker.  
 Darrell Gaff, Torpedo Gun by Panamco Sales, 1-lb. black croaker.  
 Dennis Wren, Rubber Suit Kit by Suit Yourself Co., 1 1/2-lb. barred pach.  
 Bill Hozen, 2 Catalina trips via United Airlines by Globetrotters Travel Agency, 3-lb. sargo.  
 Sam Ichikawa, Pole Gun, by DESCO Co., 6 1/2-lb. octopus.  
 Jake Frazier, mask and fins by Voit Rubber, 8 1/4-in. rock scallop.  
 Chuck Fournier, mask and fins, Voit Rubber, 6 1/2-in. plomo clam.  
 Roy Kedans, 2 Catalina trips by Maray, 2-lb. rubber-lip perch.  
 Ron Church, 2 Catalina trips by Maray, 5 1/2-lb. bonita.  
 A. Anderson, 2 Catalina trips by Maray, 5-lb. cabazon.  
 Rod White, 2 Catalina trips by Maray, 5-lb. 10-oz. opal eye.  
 Bob Romero, Rondine fins by Healthways, 14-lb. 1-oz. eel.

### WOMEN'S DIVISION

Sharon Hughes, \$75 bathing suit by Rose Marie Reid, 9 1/2-in. red abalone.  
 Doty Frazier, Comet Water skis by Catalina Equipment Co., 9 1/2-in. green abalone.  
 Pat Harrellson, Arbalete by U.S. Divers Corp., 4-lb. 5-oz. cabazon.  
 Julie Vetter, bathing suit and towel by Rose Marie Reid, 9-in. red abalone.  
 Mitzi Bastian, bathing suit by Jantzen Knitting Mills, 9 1/2-in. green abalone.  
 Joan Miller, Neptune gun by Panamco Sales, 2-lb. rock bass.  
 Alice Porter, 2 Catalina trips by Maray, 8 1/2-in. red abalone.  
 Lora Lee Sturgill, SKIN DIVER subscription and Rose Marie Reid beach towel, 8-inch red abalone.

Prizes given at the Jamboree and the Derby Presentation Dance as door prizes were: rebreather lung by DESCO Co., four Torpedo guns by Park Mfg., masks and fins by Voit Rubber Corp., masks and fins by Park Mfg., beach towels by Rose Marie Reid, masks by Healthways and many other valuable prizes.

The Council of Diving Clubs of California wishes to thank all the donors for their grand prizes and also thank the many people who helped to make this year's derby a success.

All Registration Certificates will be kept at Derby Headquarters until February 1, 1955. If anyone wishes to check these records they will be available. Many of the registrations from the La Jolla-San Diego area were never received. Possible prize winners in that area should contact Derby Headquarters and the prizes will be given upon verification of claim. ▶

# the Hydrophone

By RICHARD CROSBY

THREE CANDLES ON OUR CAKE. It was December, 1951 that the first issue of the SKIN DIVER magazine appeared. With this issue it makes an even three years of publication.

These were wonderful years. Each new issue proved that editors Jim and Chuck were right, yet their original bold step in the first place was no less a gamble. In the very first editorial Jim wrote: "Our policies are few and can be readily adjusted according to the trend or season. We make no claims on our journalistic talents therefore the SKIN DIVER has many writers—all experts—no necessarily experts at writing but experts on the subject written about." Since that declaration the magazine's pages have brought stories, reports and articles from the far corners of the diving world. Its authors collectively represent a veritable Who's Who of the most active and important divers in the world today. The editors were right in trusting in the enthusiasm of our contributors so that each will take the time to write in the first place.

A sad statistic was published not long ago. In a New York paper an announcement read that within the past six month period no less than 106 magazines went bankrupt. These fought furiously for circulation on the newsstands, using every cheap attraction known to them—and died! By sharp contrast our SKIN DIVER isn't even on very many newsstands, it doesn't have "name" authors that command top fees, it doesn't have the blare of sex and sin and alleged exposé that is supposed to stimulate circulation. It has a calm and friendly atmosphere with no gimmicks other than to offer in a realistic way a report on the most fascinating sport of them all.

We note that our healthy fin-footed three-year-old is not only the top candidate to be voted "Most Likely To Succeed" but has already attracted attention to the point where it now reaches 49 countries with 8400 copies of THIS issue. Several hundred of these copies go to schools and libraries all over the world giving an undetermined total readership.

Not long ago Mr. Joseph Wetzel, Jr., president of the Long Island Dolphins placed an ad in the Divers' Bulletin Board column offering \$5.00 for that first issue of the SKIN DIVER. Someone sent it to him, finally. This is the most dramatic illustration as to how the magazine is valued. It has already become a collectors' item—and only three years old!

As we veteran readers gather around the table to blow out the three candles, we look forward to new subscribers and new friends. In a way we who love the undersea will "meet" each month, no matter how cold or murky be our respective waters. While other national magazines give our sport no more than a passing glance; a short burst of interest, our own SKIN DIVER will offer writers who are divers themselves. It's a great new fraternity, this gang of ours!

SO THEY TELL ME: Long Island's own Operation Starmop was very successful, I hear. A great friend-making idea, proving underwater spearfishermen are not such bad guys at all—among the misinformed . . . A wealthy sportsman some-

where in the State of Maine is having an elaborately equipped skin diving boat built to order. Will cost upwards of \$25,000; for wide East Coast operation either sport or light salvage. No further details.

Mr. Wetzel writes: A German firm named Barakuda now offers "a radio that fits on a diver, you guessed it, the 'Hydrophone', looks like a little Lung with a rod extending out of the bottom, can be used with or without a Lung." I suppose that now Herr und Fraulein diver can both tune on some German Arthur Godfrey as they fin along under the North Sea. Is this a forecast of a new era of fin-footed "hams"? Can't you just visualize a commander of a skin diving task force crackling over the phones, "Barracuda at Sector Seven. 'B' Company, scramble. Target heading North, Northeast towards coral head at minus 35. Approach with caution. Use power heads . . . alright, Arbalet squad, move in. This is Bullseye Baker signing off. Over." . . . Oh, well it COULD happen . . . On the other hand, I recall somewhere in my technical training that R.F. signals cannot pass through the conductive medium of salt water. The radio waves ground out, leaving only ultrasonics that will vibrate along, but, leave it to German technicians to find a way out. I hope we hear more about this radio and what it was designed for soon.

Add this to your imagination: In the new Christmas catalog of Sears Roebuck and Co. are electric socks that will warm your tootsies up to 4 hours at a time using only the self-contained power source of two 6-volt dry cell. They're like a chip off the old electric blanket idea with heating wires woven into knee-high woolen socks. Batteries are mounted on the belt. The whole wired-up affair is conceivably small enough to fit inside a rubber suit to give the diver a welcomed "hot-foot" extending the diving season no end. Introduced last winter at \$20.00 per pair, they cost less than half that figure now. Yes, I've ordered them. Will report on a field test soon.

CHILLY OCTOBER DIVING: brought much newspaper publicity to a reconnaissance expedition which took place off Long Island's south shore during which time the group visited "hitherto unvisited" wrecks at several locations in one day. Through the able professional guidance of Captain Russ Redfield, the most respected party fishing skipper on Long Island's south shore, the group sailed out of Freeport to positions which Captain Redfield pinpointed with uncanny accuracy by use of a Fathometer and his own expert knowledge. The divers, clad in foam neoprene suits and large twin-tank Aqua-Lungs, dropped right in on the wreck of a coastal schooner in 50 feet of water, then another in 70 feet where diver Richard S. Ferg surprised all with his 70-foot dive without any breathing apparatus. They're still talking about it here. That second wreck remains unidentified. In all there were two ancient wooden vessels, or what was left of them, and an iron-hulled Spanish freighter called the Iberia. Mr. Chester Zagorski took underwater color movies with a camera encased within a converted pressure cooker. Several anchors were salvaged.

Murky water and an uncomfortable current hampered the divers whose expedition was sparked by Mr. Lester H. Butler, an executive of the Alcoa Aluminum Corporation, and Mr. Charles Freed, a successful chemical engineer. Both men are listed as officers of a company known as the Underwater Research and Salvage Corporation.

In a special interview for the SKIN DIVER magazine, Captain Redfield showed great interest in diving operations. He said he can put divers on wrecks locations at any chosen depth to which

they cared to dive. In other words, you name the depth and he'll give you a wreck to your convenience. Obviously, this comes from a vast experience of satisfying his line fishing customers. Not only has he built up an enormous clientele which trust his judgment, but that diving publicity brought him some 20 telephone calls from several nearby New England states, some as far as 200 miles from his home. A seagoing veteran of much World War II action, he regrets that he is not able to dive, but still prefers to act as an experienced guide to exploring or salvaging divers who seek his assistance. Though Capt. Redfield's main income comes from the line-fishing party business, he is anxious to champion the skin divers' cause, he says. We couldn't have a nicer friend.

SALVAGE IN RHODE ISLAND. Two reports come from this state about two unidentified Lung divers. They're still talking about the rubber-clad, exhausted, coughing diver who aided stricken yachtsmen when Hurricane Carol gave us its merry brush. This diver had a long waiting list, they say, and attended to each customer through daylight and dark, allegedly making \$450 to \$500 per day bringing up various personal items from sunken boats, patching gaps in hulls so they could be pumped out, and generally assisting in salvage operations at fees upwards of \$25 per dive.

Another—or the same diver—was reported as having found a sunken German submarine to which he sailed out regularly until someone on shore got curious and followed him. Then the report got vague. He was either surprised at the site of his operation or cleverly evaded his followers postponing further diving until curiosity subsided. It is said he is after "a 31,000 pound lead keel, batteries, and many other valuables." Position of the wreck remains his deep dark secret, they say.

BELIEVE IT OR DON'T. During the month of October the Navy Hydrographic office reported smoke from the sea. The skipper of the tanker Dynafuel was quoted, "The smoke appeared to come from under water and resembled that from bombs, dropped during target practice. It lasted ten minutes." If it happened off Los Angeles instead of somewhere off New Orleans as it were, I'd say that some nauseated whale was exhaling a lungful of smog.

DON'T TAKE YOUR DIVING STRAIGHT—USE A CHASER! Additional evidence that Shark Chaser really works was brought to light recently when the Consolidated Drug Chemical Co. of New Orleans reported the results of a 6-month test at sea. Attached at intervals to a fish net and checked every five days the chaser-equipped net had "no trouble" with shark interference during the entire test period, while a similar unprotected net nearby was torn by sharks 17 times. Used in the familiar tear-open bags in the form of a cake of soap, each Chaser station along the net stained its surrounding area to a 60-foot diameter circle, lasting 4 to 8 hours, depending on the temperature of the immediate water. The firm intended to demonstrate the product's usefulness only to commercial net fishermen—no divers' use suggested. Take it for what it's worth.

FOR THAT YUMMY GOODNESS, try Octopus cooked in its own ink sauce. It is supposed to be a Portuguese "delicacy."

DIVERS' LANGUAGE. Introducing: the "Blimp". The term is used widely by professional movie cameramen in reference to a complete camera enclosure. Usually referred to as: "the camera is blimped for sound," the term already used is equally applicable for underwater camera cases, since both are complete enclosures of a camera

yet allowing camera operation through external controls. One such used in the movie industry has a thin cast aluminum shell with a composite lining of five sandwiched layers of sheet foam rubber and lead foil giving soundproof operation. Cameras usually make gear-grinding noises that interfere with on-the-set sound recording, hence the encasement. Sound blimps are rubber gasketed just like underwater camera cases. It would be entirely correct, in this writer's view, to adopt the term "Blimp" in our case. Anything else is an involved explanation, sentence-long, and unnecessary. How about it? Are you "Blimped" for water?

**DIVING MOVIEMAKERS, TAKE NOTE:** A little known technical development of an electronic nature now makes possible the reproduction of color movies through color television. Heretofore it was not such a simple matter to merely project before a TV camera and expect transmission. Now, by some electronic wizardry any color film is usable provided it was manufactured "within the past ten years." Previously made films won't do; for some reason are not suitable or obsolete in color processing.

**SALVAGE HEARTBREAK.** October 11th brought an item from far away Tierra Del Fuego that the German liner Monte Cervantes which sank in Beagle Channel, off the tip of South America in 1930, and consumed the incredible time of 11 years of salvage time with an expenditure of \$1,200,000, settled back into the sea while being towed away by three tugs. The second sinking after all that time and trouble may well go down in history as the most heartbreaking salvage feat of all time. It was a 1,200 passenger vessel.

**TREASURE HUNTERS TAKE FIVE.** Ian Douglas Campbell, the 11th Duke of Argyll has given up his bay bottom excavation over the site of the sunken treasure Galleon Florencia. Because the attempt took two months' time and brought little success, the treasure hunt was called off till next year, with a hope that the dredged out cavity would not fill in again. Divers already worked at a depth of 90 feet, finding only broken timbers, bone fragments, and part of a five-foot spear.

**FOR MOVIEGOERS:** Two films are in the making which will relive on the screen the various wartime attacks of the torpedo riders of World War II. A British version titled, "Above Us The Waves" is being shot on location in the English Channel and the Island of Guernsey, will include the attack on the Nazi warship Tirpitz . . . Another called "Mizar" will feature a woman torpedo rider starring actress Dawn Adams who spent much time in pools training with an Aqua-Lung. I hope someone reminds the producers that an Aqua-Lung was not yet invented when the film story was to take place; this being another Italian Navy adventure similar to "Hell Raiders Of The Deep." The latter was very accurate equipment-wise . . . "King Of The Coral Reef" is still in the editing stage. Sorry about the premature announcement recently about it being ready for release . . . Don't miss "The Golden Mistress"; Lung diving on a treasure hunt . . . Shining brightly sometime this month will be Walt Disney's "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea" . . . Coming soon is "The Big Rainbow," already mentioned in the SKIN DIVER.

**NEW DIVING BOOK.** Based on a Red Sea expedition, "The Blue Continent" by Folco Quilici is advertised as having some of the best underwater stills ever taken; 26 in color, 60 photos

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER Harry Braun, Hamburg, Germany, shot the above picture in the Baltic Sea. Leica camera.



in all. Publisher: Reinhart & Co., N. Y., . . . Not new, but important for technical reference on Shark Chaser is: "Science and Art of Fumery" by E. Sagarin, First Edition, 1945, Page 201. A treasure thriller soon to be released is Lt. Harry E. Rieseberg's "My Compass Points to Treasure," published by Henry Holt & Co.

Did you know that the body of the late Mr. Hope Root was found on a Miami beach about two months after he disappeared during his diving-record attempt. The twin-tank Aqua-Lung he wore was not attached to his body and was not reported found to this day. Mystery?

Many thanks to writer John Tassos for giving the SKIN DIVER such a nice plug in his article which appeared this summer in the New York Times' Magazine Section.

Do you find that fishy smell disagreeable when bringing home your catch? The fish, say Canadian scientists, say the feeling's mutual. Fish do not like the smell of human beings, either. Tests con-

ducted on salmon prove this one species at least does not care for us at all, making things even.

Many were the jokes about the non-existent Swiss Navy, but divers at least have been known to operate even among the lofty mountains and its yodeling echos. Not long ago a diver recovered the body of a long-dead U.S. bomber pilot trapped in the wreckage of a B-17 flying fortress on the bottom of Lake Greifensee. Although the name of the diver was not given, he did manage to extricate the body which was entombed in the cockpit of the plane for some 9 years. Local papers and authorities paid tribute to the dead airman who deliberately sacrificed his life by piloting the huge 4-motored ship into the lake rather than risk hitting the nearby village of Faellanden. The bomber had been badly crippled by anti-aircraft fire while on a raid over Germany. It hit the lake in flames after the pilot told other crew members to jump. And so a diver brought back the memory of the time when the skies over Europe were afire. —

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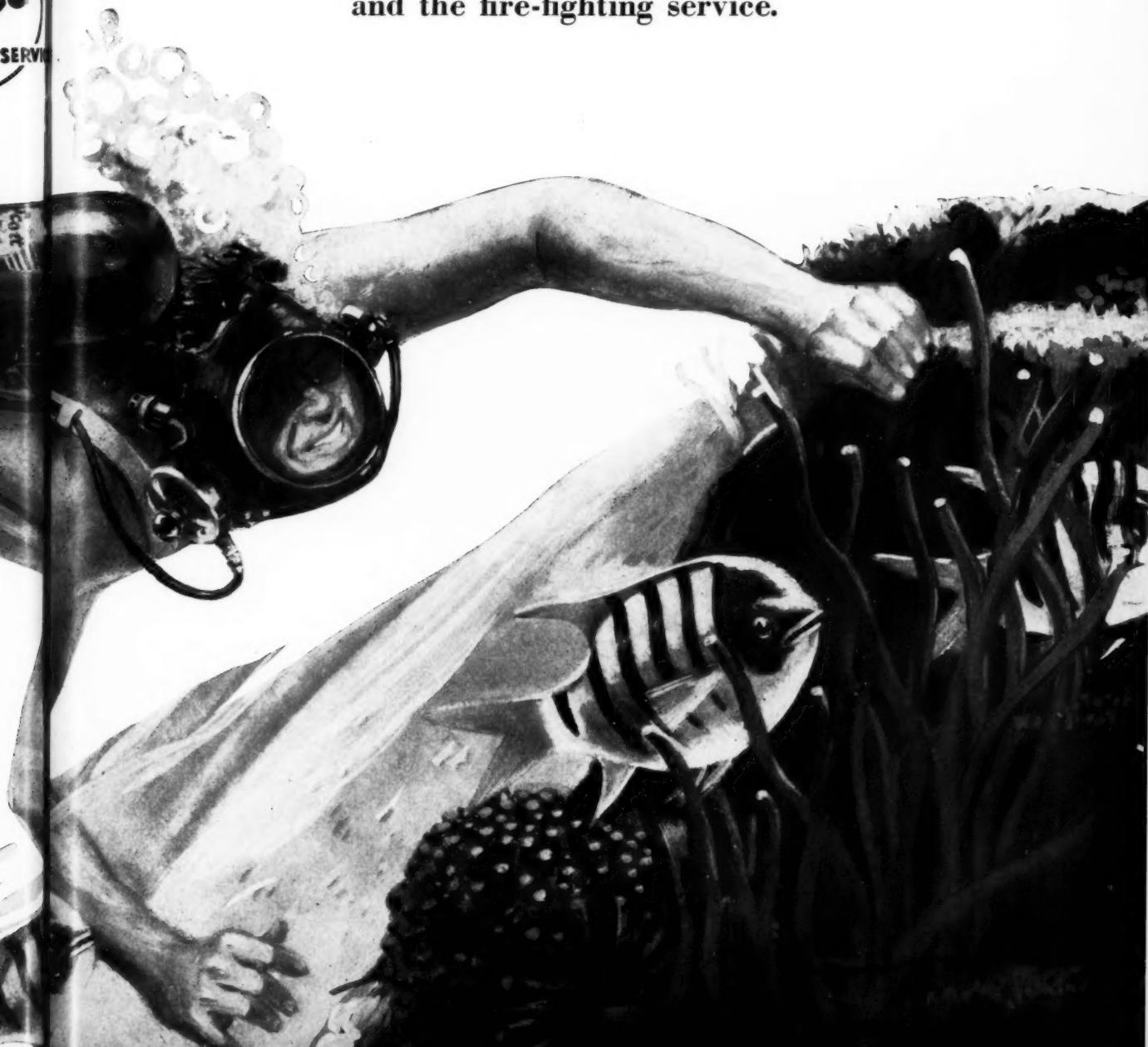
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CONTESTANTS in the First Annual Inter-Service Spearfishing Meet held in Puerto Rico. Three service teams competed four hours in this meet, the Guantanamo Bay Denizens of the Deep took first place, Ramey A.F.B. Spearfishing Club second and the West Palm Beach, Florida representative made third place. Official U.S.A.F. photograph.

## Inter-Service Spearfishing Competitions

By CAPT. W. FORAKER

The Ramey Spearfishing team was host to the first inter-service spearfishing tournament in this area and won second place in the competition. The first place winners were from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Navy fisherman won the prize with a total catch of 78 pounds of assorted marine life. The Ramey catch weighed 57 pounds.

Third place winner in the tourney was almost a one-man team from West Palm Beach. Due to lack of transportation, the Florida airmen cancelled out, but Lt. Col. Robert F. Hunt payed his own expenses, and participated anyway, with two borrowed Ramey fishermen to complete his team. The determined sportsman speared 48 pounds of the 50 pounds of fish his team entered in the contest. He speared a larger amount of fish in pounds than any other member of the tourney.

Individual prizes went to AE3 S. J. Newins, also of Guantanamo Bay, who speared the largest fish in the tourney, weighing 20 pounds. The second individual winner was another Navy man, HM1 M. Morrison, from the San Juan Navy team, who speared a 17-pound grouper. The winning catch was also a grouper.

The third individual catch was made by BMC J. D. Ellwood, who speared a sixteen and a half pound ray. Ellwood was also a member of the Cuban team.

Second place winners from Ramey included Mr. W. E. Garrison, a civilian who bagged a barracuda during the tourney; Capt. Robert D. Yates, 301st

SRS, and A/1C James Hill, of Field Maint Sq. Lt. Col. Hunt's team representing West Palm Beach, Fla., was completed with Maj. Roy Hopper, 60th SRS, and A/2C Sidney Bonin, of Field Maint Sq.

Members of the winning team included E. H. Cavanaugh and T. P. Ahlberg, civilians, and LTJG J. H. Kropack, who is noted in Navy circles for recovering the body of a pilot in one 70-foot dive without special equipment.

The entire catch totaled over 300 pounds of fish, which was cleaned and put into cold storage for the next Fish Fry sponsored by the Ramey Spearfishing Club.

The tournament was sponsored by the Base Special Services Officer who supplied the trophies for the tournament. A large trophy was presented to each of the three winning teams, and will remain in their organization headquarters, while each team member was presented with individual trophies.

The September contest was believed to be the first inter-service spearfishing meet in the world. It has been definitely established that it was the first in this area. The spearfisherman were carried to their assigned area's in two crash boats. The judges were also in the crash boats to weigh the catch as it was put aboard. The boats were on constant patrol in the fishing area which covered almost 2½ miles of beach. Due to our fishing area being on the North West tip of the Island the incoming tides were very strong and after the 4 hours there was a beat up and tired bunch of spearfishermen.

Thirteen three-man teams represented the Air Force, Army and Navy. The teams were distributed at their fishing location and the contest began at 9:00 in

California . . .

## NEWPORT HARBOR SUB-MARINERS

By ALAN WHITE

A "breakfast on the beach", a tri-club tournament, two trips to Punta Banda, trips to Catalina and the San Simeon-Morro Bay region of Central California, plus numerous expeditions in our own backyard, the Corona Del Mar-Laguna Beach area, have been the many fun-filled activities of the Sub-Mariners for the past two months.

With the opening of lobster season, a gang of us headed south. The water at Punta Banda was in its customary "clear - but - mighty - cold" condition. It wasn't too cold though, to stop Jerry Spangler from nabbing a good 13 bugs during both days.

The inter-club tournament took place on the beautiful Sunday of October 17th at Dana Point. The McCulloch Mermen won the two-hour bout with our team and the Long Beach Neptunes trailing. Sub-Mariner Bob Clark won the trophy for the largest fish with a nice 13½ lb. Sheepshead. A sumptuous fish chowder, simmering over an open fire, was waiting for the divers at the contest's close. Prepared by some of the wives, it was served with buttered French bread and a salad and had everything in it from abalone to lobster.

The "Siege of Morro Bay" was undertaken the weekend of October 24-25th. Unfortunately, we got up there on the tail-end of a storm which made for very poor visibility. The trip was successful though, with everyone getting some good-sized ab. One particular 10" red abalone wrested our much-coveted yearly ab trophy for Bill Silzle.

The same weekend Bill stole the abalone trophy from Ron Merker (who had taken the biggest ab previous to Bill's), Blair Smith went to a favorite spot of his own and won our lobster trophy with a chubby little 10½ lb. bull.

With the coming of Christmas, the Sub-Mariners wish for our brother sport-divers throughout the entire world, the blessings of the Infant Savior, and also, a happy New Year of good diving and fishing. ■

the morning. At 1:30 P.M. the contest was officially closed, the contestants were picked up, and returned to the crash boat area.

The four-hour competition was completed without incident and the first inter-service spearfishing tourney successfully ended with the presentations of awards at the weighing station on the CBR beach around 3 in the afternoon. ■



KITTEN in the lower right corner is looking toward a bright future as it sits transfixed looking at Johnie Carroll's 203½-lb. black sea bass. Fish was speared off La Jolla, California. Photo by Dick Risher.

## Long Beach Y.M.C.A. Lung Diving Classes

By AL FISH, Physical Director

On Monday, November 3, 1954, the Y.M.C.A. skin diving and aqua lung instructor, Rory Page, graduated 27 student divers.

The graduation climaxed a 6 weeks course, covering a variety of exercises, safety rules, and advanced lectures dealing with the explanation and practical demonstration in using the underwater breathing unit, the "aqua lung," set down by instructor Page.

One of the high spots of the course was the showing of motion pictures depicting the versatility of the "aqua lung" diver, for skin diving, salvage work, and submarine exploring.

I wish to thank Dr. Nelson Mathison, Jim Auxier, editor of the "Skin Diver" magazine, Sam Lecocq, of the U. S. Divers Corporation who are makers of the aqua lung, and the Long Beach Public Library for the films used. I also wish to thank Bower Ambulance Service of Long Beach for donating the compressed air used in the diving apparatus.

I am pleased to announce the complete success of this underwater program. It

not only gives me great personal satisfaction to have been instrumental in making this course available, but more from the service the Y.M.C.A. has done for the community which it serves, by providing this class of instruction.

We hope to start another class soon. For those who wish further information, you may contact me, Al Fish, Y.M.C.A. Physical Director at Long Beach 72737, or write c/o Y.M.C.A. Long Beach, California. ☐

Oregon . . .

### OREGON SKIN DIVERS By RUSS WOLFE

Just recently, the Oregonians have deserted our local waters for the more abundant areas of Puget Sound, right in the backyard of the Mudsharks. A few weeks ago, several of the more hearty members took a week end tour up in that locale and came home with enough stories to excite the entire club. Dave Payne, Tom Amerman and Charlie (ling cod) Solomon not only speared over 200 pounds of assorted fish but this daring trio cornered a good sized octopus and their combined efforts were not enough to dislodge this fellow from his cave retreat. The harder they pulled the further he'd pull himself into his hole. From reports, his tentacles were as large as a man's wrist.

I can safely say that the Oregon Skin

Washington . . .

### THE BEACHCOMBERS

By JOHN E. FRIARS

On the calendar for the coming months is a Club party-dance to be held during the first week in December. Chairman Sheila LeClerq has announced that this event will be a masquerade in which all Beachcombers and their guests will arrive suitably garbed as "denizens of the deep." The masquerade will be held in the LeClerq's boatbuilding shop. Spearguns will be checked at the door in order that persons dressed in fish-type costumes may be assured of their safety.

Frank Wolff and Walt Mackey claim the most interesting diving of the month. Both men, working night shifts, have been doing a great deal of weekday diving. Frank this month took a 43-lb. lingcod just off the West Seattle shoreline. He reports that the fish bent an Arbalet shaft into a complete "C" with only three inches between the two ends of the spear. Frank and Walt, last week teamed up to take two large octopi in the same afternoon. As it is against the law to spear octopi in the state of Washington, they took both using only their hands, at a depth of 45 feet. One of the large creatures measured 14 feet from tip to tip, and the other measured 12 feet. The boys had the two parrot-like beaks on display at the last meeting. Walt says there was another down there in the same spot, but that that they were nearly out of air, and too tired from the first two to attempt the last one.

The Beachcombers have been happy to welcome visitors from Canadian groups at the last two meetings. Bert Mona, president of the Vancouver Blue Sharks, attended the October meeting, and Bill Hook, of a Victoria group came out to the November meeting. Notes were exchanged and tentative plans call for some Canadian-American meets soon. ☐

Divers have the only member ever speared by a fish. Tom Amerman got a good shot into a ling cod through the eye with the barbed end protruding about a foot out the other side. The fish turned and on the second pass caught Tom's suit, tearing a good sized hole in the hip area. This didn't end the episode as the ling proceeded to break his arbalet spear, indicating that it was of monstrous size.

Our club is forming a demonstration team to acquaint people with our sport. It will consist of a display of different type suits, spear guns and general equipment. A team of four will stay under for ten minutes with one lung and one rebreather. They will change from one to another and come to the surface with rescue packs. Nothing very fancy to the average skin diver but very impressive to the outsider. ☐

California . . .

## LA JOLLA SKINSTERS

By MIKE CARNOHAN

I suppose every club has at least one character who can be depended on to make the best efforts of everyone else look amateurish. Ours is Frank Leinheupel. He always manages to come in with something so big, usually at the last minute, that we all feel like folding our rubber suits and quietly stealing away. For example: on our beach meet of Oct. 10 conditions were so poor that we had mostly ended up on the beach at La Jolla Shores, eating hot dogs, and bragging about past exploits, when in comes Frank, with the only bug of the day, a 6 pounder. That wasn't too bad, more or less to be expected, but about 20 minutes later, with a borrowed gun, he came staggering back thru the surf with what we think is a new world's record halibut, tipping the scales at 45½ lbs.

The next sound to be heard was the splash that the rest of us made, plowing out into the fog in search of an even bigger one—a fruitless search, as it turned out. And so it goes. Maybe he will break a leg, or run into a hungry shark or something. That seems to be our only hope.

Jack James and I made an interesting expedition to San Martin Island, about 150 miles south, the weekend of the 24th. Drove down over those velvety Mexican hiways to San Quintin Bay, put the boat in the water, and outboarded the 20 odd miles to the island, through flocks of ducks and geese. Unfortunately, it was rough and not too clear, and we didn't have much time for exploration, but from what little territory we did cover, and from the abundance of small fish around the anchorage, we feel that it holds unlimited possibilities for someone with time and decent water conditions. We did bring back 40 or 50 lbs. of smaller fish, bass, perch, etc., and one 18 lb. bug, and had much fun playing with the over friendly cormorants, pelicans, and seals, so consider the trip a success. Learned, too, by observation, that cormorants obtain their food by means of a high speed stern chase, which takes some fast swimming.

There are no hotels on the island, so camping on the beach is a necessity. No water either, so take your own. I would be happy to pass on any tips on the trip to anyone interested. ▶

Give a  
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SUBSCRIPTION FOR  
CHRISTMAS



MIKE CARNOHAN, member of the La Jolla Skinsters, as he appeared to the lobsters at San Martin Island, Mexico, on October 24, 1954.

Massachusetts . . .

## MASSACHUSETTS AMPHIBS

By PETE FRANKLIN

The Massachusetts Amphibs formed not quite a year ago. We consist of about 10 all-season divers and a number of warm-weather fans. Most of us are employees of the Raytheon Corp., Waltham, or students at MIT. The spearfishing north of Cape Cod is generally poor, and we keep our Arbs and Hawaiian slings stowed away for occasional sallies south. As far as diving in general goes, however, we think we have some fairly tremendous water. Sea-carved red and black granite makes for imposing above-water scenery, and since we are often short on blue sky and sunshine, the ocean is generally dark reflecting the sky; all of which tends to give the diver the idea that he is really at grips with nature. Beneath the sea and within twenty feet of the surface rocks are painted with vividly colored incrustations and decorated with a variety of larger plant and animal growths. Undersea boulder fields alternate with sand and gravel deserts, and depths to 100 feet are available within several hundred yards of the shore. Visibility as one looks along the bottom averages twenty feet or so, and the spectrum seems to be mutated to give the fascinating, unearthly color effects to a far greater extent than in tropical water. Water temperature varies from the sixties during the summer to near freezing in the coldest weather.

Between two expeditions to the large Quincy Quarry hole a total of six Amphibs found something better than 150 feet. This quarry water is quite clear, and looking up into the light, other divers appear as small dark silhouettes against the bright ceiling. The bottom of broken, tumbled granite is illuminated in a weird bluish light for a radius of 40 feet around the diver. ▶

California . . .

## LONG BEACH DOUGLAS TRIDENTS

The Long Beach Douglas Tridents came up for air long enough last month to install a new president in the person of H. B. Wright. The latter succeeds H. G. Patton.

The Tridents, assisting Wright at the helm of leadership, include C. A. Nelson, vice-president; L. Tyler, secretary; J. H. Holiday, treasurer and H. C. Patton, safety officer.

During the year that Patton was president of the Tridents, trips were made to Catalina, Morro Bay, Mexico, and week y meets in local waters.

We, of the Tridents, consider ourselves very fortunate in having a diver of such high caliber. Although our club does not go in for aqua lungs or deep diving, we feel that if the fish are not too deep, we can go down and get them. Patton has been known to dive repeatedly to over 70 feet, stalk his fish and bring them up.

We are confident that Patton's many years of experience will help our club in his new assignment as Safety Officer. His last official act as President was to present a trophy to Fred Czerny for spearing the biggest fish of the year. Czerny's catch was a 150 pound Bat Ray.

We wish to take this opportunity to give our thanks for a wonderful job well done by Mr. Morgan in his skin diving classes this summer.

Our Club considers his, "Under Water Safety Manual," written in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation outstanding on work of this nature. ▶

Q. Can an oyster see?

A. Oysters, as well as other bivalves such as clams and scallops do have means of "seeing." Completely surrounding these animals is a flat sheet of tissue called the mantle which has several functions vital to the well-being of the animal. On the edge of this structure there are organs known as pallial eyes. These eyes are sensitive to a decrease in light, such as a shadow passing over the animal. However, only the eyes directly in line with the light are affected, and stimulation of at least two eyes is necessary in order for the animal to respond. Thus, while the oyster is feeding with the shell opened, any other animal passing between the light rays and the eyes on the mantle will cause the oyster to respond by closing its shell. It then waits until it thinks the danger is passed and then opens its shell to test its theory. ▶

— "Sea Secrets"

## NAA SEA SABRES

By HERB SLATER

Skin divers are an adventurous lot by nature, hence the Club delegated Al Archer, V.P., to look into the possibility of an overnight camp-out on Anacapa Island.

Al made a special trip to Port Hueneme on Labor Day weekend to get all the facts. He told the manager of the Sport Fishing Association, there were 40 club members, with loads of gear to make the trip. The manager explained that Anacapa Island had a clean beach area that was ideal for camping. He added that there were several cabins we could use, if necessary. He stated that he had camped there many times.

When Al asked about the size of the boat, they claimed it would hold 50 people and all the gear we wanted to bring. This looked quite promising and, when Al made his report at the next meeting, we voted to make the trip on the weekend of Oct. 16-17. The two hundred dollars necessary for the boat was collected and everyone started preparing for the big event.

At last the day arrived and the members started gathering at the dock. We waited for our boat to pull into the loading area. When it did, we were quite dismayed, for the boat was a dirty, un-accomodating thing with barely enough room for 30 people. (Only 27 people came on the trip).

We asked if there was a dock at Anacapa and the skipper said no. We then asked how we were going to get our gear ashore and he told us that was our problem. We finally got a skiff for another four dollars and we were on our way.

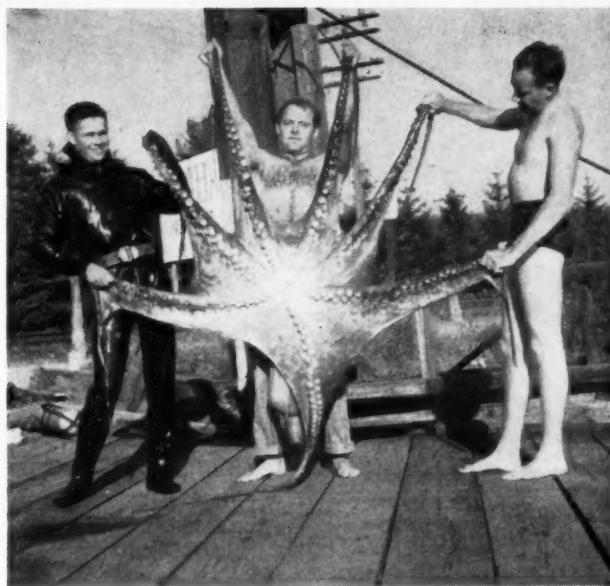
It was foggy and the ocean was quite rough, but the skipper proved quite capable and within an hour and a half we were in the cove where the cabins and beach were supposed to be. Al Archer, Ted Spyropoulos and myself, started ashore in the skiff and found that we had a broken carlock.

After paddling through a high surf we landed on a narrow strip of very rocky beach. An old man, called "Frenchy," greeted us and showed us the trail to the cabins. He had all but one of them filled with his belongings. The remaining one could possibly have held 8 or 10 people if they "bundled."

We climbed the cliff to look for a camping area and found nothing. Frenchy said the beach we landed on would be covered at high tide. Returning to the boat, everyone agreed it would be impossible to stay there.

Some of the fellows wanted to dive be-

OCTOPUS HUNTERS latest catch. Weight 45-lbs. Puget Sound Mudsharks from L to R are Berry Fairfax, Jack Meyers and Larry Kelley.



fore we went back so we asked the skipper to drop anchor. This spot seemed to be the only clear and fairly calm area around the island. We were quite sure there were bugs here because of all the lobster pots anchored nearby; besides, when we pulled into the area, the owners of the pots were tending them and our skipper hailed them as old friends.

The skipper refused to drop anchor here stating that he knew a better spot.

We agreed to give it a try and he took us to a rough spot on open water and said there was a reef somewhere below this spot. We became quite angry and told him to take us back to the mainland. When we got back, the skipper and the manager agreed to give us half our money back.

So far as the Sea Sabres are concerned, we were taken. □



FRED CZERNY and the 150-lb. bat ray which earned him the trophy for the largest fish of the year in the Long Beach Douglas Tridents.

New Jersey . . .

## DIVING JETS

By ART NELSON

The Diving Jets held their first Annual Outing at Montauk Point, Long Island, New York. This event was attended by the following members: Anne Obel, Martha Siebke, Elinore Nelson, Dolores Balestrieri, Bill Chadwick, Jay Bartels, Phil Ferri, Paul Mekita, John Miller, John McAteer, Tom Stevenson and yours truly.

Saturday, August 20, was a complete failure—rain, cold, and a three-foot visibility. A few hardy individuals did enter the cold water, but yours truly was the only one that speared anything—a four pound Blackfish brought in with a tail shot! A fish-fry was scheduled for Saturday nite, but with all the spearfishermen present, fish had to be purchased!

Sunday, August 21, was a beautiful day for spear fishing—with the exception of lack of co-operation on the part of the fish. Two eight pound Blackfish and one two pound Sea Bass was the total catch. More fish could have been speared, but most members were looking for Stripes—and there were few around.

We all enjoyed the company of Gene Moore, Bob Davidson, and Dr. Ilias Konstantinu, who are ardent spearmen.

The club gave a demonstration and exhibition to about two hundred persons at the Annual Kearnott Co., Inc. picnic held Sunday, September 26, in Parsippany, New Jersey. Since our membership consists mainly of employees of this company, we were very happy to help make the picnic a success. ■



AQUADUNKERS of Northern New Jersey. (L-R) Ralph Zagnaloff, Phil Scola, Mel Pope, Jack Osbahr and Bill Kaiser. The central figure is a late member of the Florida Keys weighing 230 pounds.

New Jersey . . .

## AQUADUNKERS

By MILFORD POPE

Activities of the Aquadunkers of northern New Jersey were highlighted this summer by a five man spearfishing trip to Florida during a seventeen-day vacation. The Florida divers were Mel Pope, Bill Kaiser, Ralph Zagnaloff, Phil Scola, and Jerry Gibbs, and most of the fishing was done five to seven miles off the south shore of Key West with one day out of Miami Beach. With comfortably warm water at 85°F., the boys revelled for six hours a day in the beauty of the coral reefs teeming with underwater life. What a difference from diving along the cold New Jersey shore! Most of the fish observed were new and interesting to Jerseyites; many of them were odd-shaped and brilliantly colored.

Under the expert supervision of veteran Key West divers Ed Ciesinski and Ernie Ryckman, the Aquadunkers speared snappers, grouper, spade fish, hog fish, parrot fish, sheepshead and other fair sized fish (fair for Key West, that is) but also bagged a few good-sized ones. The best catches were three moray eels, two sting rays, a barracuda, 130-pound black bass, and a 230-pound black bass.

The group experienced several minor shark and barracuda scares but generally felt no threat of real danger despite numerous encounters with barracuda and sharks. The behavior of both types corresponded closely to experiences related in the "Skin Diver" and contrasted markedly with some popular conceptions

California . . .

## ALAMEDA N.A.S. DIVERS

By RICK HENNESSY

So young that a name has not been drafted as yet we can only refer to ourselves as the first skin diving club ever formed in the city of Alameda, Calif., a community of no-less than 90,000 people.

At our initial conclave formulation of club policy, motives, aims, election of officers, and getting to know one and other to better enjoy the benefits such an association may render, took up the agenda.

Twenty-five avid spearfishing fans turned out for the meet, which, in short, was beyond our expectations. Together, we decided that our second meeting would see our club receiving its title so that we can take our place "officially" in the family of clubs up and down the Pacific Coast.

Most of our members are attached to the Naval Air Station, Alameda in one capacity or another. Most are enlisted service personnel while the other part of the club is composed, in the main, of civilian employees at the station. In any event, we intend to affiliate ourselves with the station. ■

glamourized by fiction writers. The sharks indifference to divers when underwater, the barracuda's curiosity, speed and wariness, and especially the prolificacy of both fish were surprising to fellows who had read and heard a variety of material on the subject. ■

California . . .

## SO. CAL. MORAYS

By BOB BROWN

The club has just returned from another trips to Punta Banda which was very successful. The total pounds caught added up to ninety-eight pounds for a two day outing. The largest fish caught was a sixteen pound sheepshead by Wally Johnson, seconded by a thirteen pound sheepshead by Dean Johnson, and followed up by Dave Burbank's twelve pound guitar fish.

At our last meeting it was voted and carried that the club would split into two divisions, junior and seniors. The juniors got off to a great start by having already had two outings, which were successful ones. One member brought in a thirty-six and a half inch moray, and another brought in a very nice cabezone. Nice going to Dave and Tom.

The senior members will work with the juniors to help and instruct them. In the future we know they will make very good members of the senior division. ■

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# A Diver's Diver—Lyman Packard

By JACK DUDLEY

The water was cold that day and the sun barely warmed the back of my rubber suit as I floated on the surface. Plunging toward the rocky bottom, I could feel the colder water pressing in. I glided over the tumbled boulders and rounding a submarine cliff, I saw something shiny in the distance. As I approached, it appeared to be waving back and forth. It was some kind of rod that disappeared into a cave. Suddenly this shiny object gave a couple of thrashes and began to move out of the hole. Then I noticed a fin, a leg, and a body! Finally it hit me—the shiny object was a peg leg! The body was a diver wrestling with an abalone! As I watched, he turned and zoomed upwards. Amazed, I came up beside him. Here was a guy with only one leg, diving in mid-winter—and garbed only in trunks . . . brrr! Thus my introduction to Lyman Packard, a grand guy and expert diver.

Disabled? Not Snorkel member Lyman Packard. He may not be able to get around fast on land, but just hand him a flipper and watch him go in the water.

Lyman is a real veteran diver, having started in the mid-thirties. And now, fifty years of age and minus his right leg he is still one of the most enthusiastic divers I have ever met.

He lost his leg in an auto accident about eight years ago, at an age when most men are ready to give up strenuous physical exercise. But his love of the sea and the fascination of just being underwater, pulled him through a dangerous crisis in his life.

A stainless steel peg leg is part of his customary gear while diving. Not that it helps to dive, but it enables him to enter and leave the water. One of the standard jokes about Lyman's peg is that he wears it for bait! Those Abalones and Pismos just snap at the leg and he has to bring them up in self defense!

Lyman disdains the use of a rubber suit and yet he dives regularly all year 'round. I have encountered him at Abalone Point on winter days and while I am bundled up in a suit and while my teeth are chattering, Lyman, clad only in trunks and stainless peg, splashes about, grins and says, "Boy, this water is just like a bathtub!" I have never heard him complain about the cold even after several hours of diving.

He first started diving in 1938 with a home-made diving helmet (hose and pump type). These first underwater ex-



LYMAN PACKARD, described as a "diver's diver", stands bold and hearty with but one leg. Lyman dives the year around just as you see him.

plorations were made at Salt Creek. He soon realized that fifty feet of hose restricts a diver. Purchasing a pair of goggles, he started free diving. The goggles weren't very good though and he graduated to a mask, made of six inch gasoline hose and ground to fit his face. It was in 1942 that he first fashioned a snorkel of aluminum, which was attached to his mask. That makes him one of the first users of the now essential device.

Besides using a helmet, Lyman has often used a navy lung. His only objection to it is that it is hard for a surface swimmer to follow the diver because there are no bubbles. He considers it dangerous to go out alone in any artificial breathing device.

Lyman learned the hard way, years ago about the dangers of rising to the

California . . .

## DAVEY JONES RAIDERS, INC.

By MARIE DI CARLO

Lynwood Community Center is the meeting hall for us now . . . after our new affiliation with them. Our meetings are the first and third Tuesday of each month.

The DJR's are proud they have some of the very young skin divers in membership . . . one of them is Larry Thomas. Larry is a 16 year old student of Lynwood High School and has been diving about 3 years.

There are other athletes in the club . . . one such adult (and I use the word freely) is Bill Biller, a tall, rugged looking ex-sailor who plays hockey, baseball, softball and excels in judo. Bill is 31 years old and veteran of the deck force (anchor clankers). You've heard of a busman's holiday . . . you've got it in the flesh with Biller . . . he's a deep sea diver 5 days a week. On Saturdays and Sundays he dives off his patio into his wet front yard, picks his own bugs and abalone. He lets the club use his patio for their diving gear because there are at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of steps down to his beach front home. The house is a beachcomber's dream . . . made of rough stone and huge wooden doors. Bill's wife Shirley doesn't even mind the old wood stove . . . so long as there is a huge pot of boiling water on top all the time for you know what? ➤

surface without exhaling. One time he had to jettison his helmet and swim up. He almost blew up his lungs, but fortunately there were no after effects.

Practically the whole Southern California coast from San Diego to Santa Monica is well known to Lyman. In the past years he has dived in almost every cove and beach available. Island waters from Catalina to Cedros in Mexico, have been explored by this pioneer diver. He tells of many interesting experiences, such as riding the sea elephants at Guadalupe Island off lower California. I sometimes wonder when he had time left to work at his job—most of his life seems to be spent in and under the sea.

Most of Lyman's diving nowadays is around Laguna, where he can be seen in action any weekend in the company of other Snorkels, exploring, gathering abalone or spearing a few fish.

If, on one of your dives, you ever encounter a waving shiny object in an underwater cave or in a crevice, you can be sure it's not a lost arbalete, but just "Centipede" Packard's peg leg waving in the current, while he is busy exploring his other world and great love—the bottom of the sea! ➤

California . . .

## OXNARD AQUA EXPLORERS

Listen my children, and you will hear the sad voice of experience. The Aqua Explorers decided to make a trip to San Quintin Bay, Baja, California. After investigation, we were informed that the road was fine all of the way. We left on a Friday night after the Swing Shift was over, driving two cars and towing a trailer containing a tent and all of the extra accessories.

The road to Arroya Seco, is paved, two lane, but beyond this the road is gravel, rock of the worse possible type, compared to stateside. We arrived, but were lucky to get there due to a broken axle on the trailer. As to the fishing. We scouted around but did not see any fish to speak of, but it is quite possible that we did not happen to find the right place.

Our advice to anyone planning a trip to this place is to investigate thoroughly before leaving and not to tow any trailers. In the past month our club has been quite active making three trips. One trip was to Santa Tomas where we got all of the Abs and Bugs that we cared to take. The water was very cold and the visibility was not too good on that weekend.

We also made two trips to Santa Cruz. One weekend we all but got blown off the water, making the water dirty. On the following weekend we went out again but the water had not cleared up enough for good diving but diving we went. There were Sheepshead for the taking and Abs, but not a bug in sight so I guess they know the season is on. We are all looking forward to the next trip to the Islands and hope this time to have clear water. ▶

MASSACHUSETTS SKIN DIVERS geared for action (L-R) Vinnie Sabbia, Bob Lopez, Harvey Kaufman, Greg Clark and Jimmy Jung.



Massachusetts . . .

## ROYAL ORDER OF FROGMEN

By R. W. WEBB

Our newly formed self-contained diving club, Royal Order of Frogmen, wishes to make known its' active membership into the realm of diving by requesting correspondence with other clubs throughout the country. Inasmuch as "The Skin Diver" is regarded as the focal point for all club information, we would appreciate your consideration in making known our quest for fellowship.

At our inception we elected only men capable of leading and instructing new members. They are — Dick Baldwin, President; Bob Whittier, Vice President; Anson Hood, Secretary, and Dick Dennis, Treasurer. ▶

## MASSACHUSETTS SKIN DIVERS

By JIMMY JUNG

Spearfishing in New England waters has been making tremendous progress in the last few years. Unfortunately, the near freezing temperatures of the ocean has been a big deterrent to this exciting sport. This, however, has not kept our enthusiastic group from participating in one of the country's fastest growing sports. Our group includes: Harvey Kaufman, Greg Clark, Vinnie Sabbia, Bob Lopez, Lou Cataldo, and yours respectfully.

Most of us are fully equipped, that is, we own lungs, various types of spear-guns, rubber suits, fins, snorkels, face-plates, and even a water-tight case for a Rolleiflex camera.

Our fellow spearfishing enthusiasts in Florida and California would not find Massachusetts waters ideal for skin diving. However, we are taking advantage of the conditions present. The rocky coastline of northern Massachusetts present the most favorable areas for under-sea adventure.

Marine growth along the Massachusetts coast is about the same as that of California, that is, the bottom is abundant with kelp and rockweed. A combination of sunken rocks and under water growth make ideal hideaways for lobster and other quarry.

As yet, an organized club has not been started in the Boston area. When we can acquire a sufficient number of enthusiasts, a club will be formed. Members of our organization are trained to qualify as swimmers; have a good working knowledge of life-saving, water-safety, and spearfishing equipment.

Anyone interested in forming a club in this area, please contact me at this telephone number—Hu-2-1122. ▶

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Maine . . .

## COAST OF MAINE NEPTUNES

By DON LAMONT

Two boatloads of Neptunes battled their way up the outgoing tidewaters of the Piscataqua River a few weeks ago in an effort to bring back some oysters to the lower part of the river for experimental growing purposes.

We anchored over a spot where we had found oysters the year before and one of the experts jumped over to investigate (he still claims he was pushed). When he broke the surface holding a large oyster, we were all elated and figured on hauling up at least ten bushels. Most of the gathering was to have been done by a member using a lung and a wire basket. Unfortunately, he caught his suit on the basket, filled up with water, and spent the next two hours shivering in the boat.

About one bushel of oysters were laboriously brought up by the handful from about 15 feet of coffee-colored, swift-running water. The Piscataqua River is purported to be the third fastest flowing river in the world, and we'll concur with that. It was necessary to fasten the divers to the boats with lines and haul them in like fish each time they came up with some oysters.

Incidentally, if some of you are wondering why we didn't enjoy some oysters on the half-shell or oyster stew, I might mention that the oysters in this area are supposedly polluted and that was one of our primary motives for moving them—

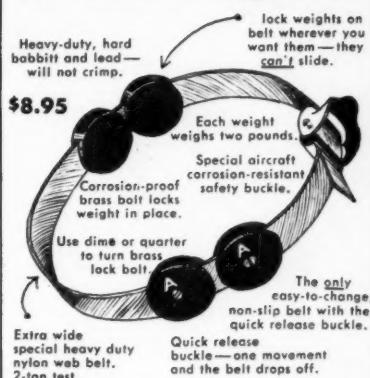
in limited numbers—to a better location, to see what would develop.

On October 31st, we held our annual election. Our new officers for 1954-55 are: Wilbur Rhodes, President; Phil Gerry, Vice-President, and Don Lamont, Secretary-Treasurer. Lewis Joslyn was appointed publicity director.

Our outgoing president Stanley Stedt gave us quite a pep talk on safety and the buddy system. Many of our members still persist in wearing weight belts that cannot be released rapidly. Fortunately, in the only instance we have had of a member having to release a weight belt, he was wearing a belt of the quick-release type. He had 13 pounds of lead on the belt with a lung on his back in very rough water. A buddy assisted him to shore, but we wonder what would have happened had the belt been one of those cartridge-type belts which too many of our members insist on wearing.

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WATER DOG Kenny Kemp being presented the quarterly plaque by Ed Peoples at a recent meeting.

California . . .

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER DOGS (H20-K9s)

By E. H. PERRY

With all the intentions of slowing down our activities for the winter, the Water Dogs threw a chowder party Sept. 28th, with 100% attendance including friends and relatives.

About 30 hungry people came back for thirds and fourths of abalone and fish chowder topped with 40 minutes of underwater films from the Mediterranean. If facial expressions mean anything, next summer will see the fathers of the junior members equipped with faceplates, snorkels and fins.

At the height of the festivities, Kenny Kemp was awarded the coveted quarterly plaque. A well deserved award for he has been by far, "The Mostest."

Well, the slight chill to the water has not dampened our enthusiasm as predicted. Oct. 24, at Honeymoon Cove, we drew a record fall turnout with only one member missing and again, right in there pitching for another plaque was Kenny coming in with a very nice Rock Cod. Next week we drill holes in his fins.

Our membership has jumped up two. Paul Hurley a senior and Bob De Pedro a junior and seven more members applications to be turned in at the next meeting held Oct. 27th. ➤

Scotland . . .

### SCOTTISH SUB-AQUA CLUBS

By ROGER BRUCE

At the present time there are three Sub-Aqua Clubs in Scotland—the Dundee Sub-Aqua Club, the first one and then the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club, which is mainly on the west coast of Scotland and the Edinburgh Sub-Aqua Club.

Unfortunately, we have no clubs with colorful names like some of yours. The object of these clubs are the same as yours, but the coldness of the water prevents many would-be "schnorkellers" from taking off. The other great disadvantage is the number of experienced people—these are very few and it is therefore not at all advisable to buy the kit if you have no knowledge of the equipment. There are quite a few fixed rules in the clubs, for instance, no oxygen kit is allowed, only compressed air and no one may enter the water wearing a lung without a companion.

So efforts are being made to keep the sport safe because so far there have been no serious accidents at all. We have plenty of keen people in the clubs and I hope we will be as successful as you have been. ➤



DICK TAYOR, North Hollywood Tritons, on October 23, 52-pound White Sea Bass. Catalina Island.

California . . .

### NORTH HOLLYWOOD TRITONS

By BILL STOKELY

These last two months of diving have produced quite a few medium sized fish. Some of them being a nine pound calico bass, a ten pound sheepshead, and an eighteen pound sheepshead, to mention a few. Dick Taylor took an eight pound bug down at Palos Verdes. This is our largest so far this season, although larger ones were taken last year.

Two weeks ago a trip was made to Catalina on a private boat, by six Tritons. They were Fred Wall, Dick Taylor, Bill Price, Roger Lang, Bob Holmgquist, and myself. The highlight of the trip being Dick Taylor's fine catch of a forty-two pound white sea bass. It has been entered in the Skin Diving Derby. Two of our members tried out their new home-made underwater camera cases with good results. They were an 16MM movie case and years, but with his new case he is getting an 35MM still case. Bill Price has been taking underwater movies for a couple of much better pictures. One member, Roger Lang, had the bad luck to lose his only shaft on a large bat ray. Better luck next time. ➤



WALT SAYER, of San Gabriel, California. Moray Eel.

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Canada . . .

## VANCOUVER SKIN DIVERS CLUB

By JIM WILLIS

The club has had some good weather for a change and the fishing has been good. The last couple of weeks it has been especially good. On Sunday, October 31 the first octopus was caught in our club by Cam Portious. It was caught at Horsehoe Bay and weighed 25 lbs. It had a span of 5-feet. Cam was only in the water a few minutes when he suddenly surfaced about 20 feet from shore and started to yell "Octopus." Everything happened at once, my brother yelled at me to get in there and help him? I jumped in and swam over to where he was treading water. Now not ever seeing one of these underwater nightmares from Victor Hugo I just about flipped my lid when I looked underwater and saw this thing climbing up the spearshaft. Cam started to swim to the shore and by this time the other fellows were there waiting to help him with it. After Cam had put the thing on the shore I got set to take some pictures of it but there was only one catch, nobody knew how to handle it. George Croy showed Cam how and we took some shots of it with my camera. As I said before the club has been doing very well with the fishing up here. Pat Molony is the go getter when it comes to catching fish. We have been diving with the Vancouver Blue Sharks for the last couple of Sundays and have been having a real ball. The Octopus Cam caught was taken to the high school where Cam goes and was given to the science teacher who was very pleased with it. The club has made arrangements with the local Salvation Army and we are giving all our fish to them that we catch. The club now carries with them a complete first aid kit that comes in handy. The club's very capable first aid man is Ted Willis who has lots of practice around home patching up the family when something happens. ■

Wisconsin . . .

## MILWAUKEE AQUA CLUB

By EUGENIA J. WALKER

Never in a million years, perhaps, will our members get a chance to inspect a Dutch freighter, lying in 80 feet of Milwaukee waters, a little over three miles off of Lake Michigan's breakwater! The Prins Willem V. sunk less than four weeks ago after a collision.

Some of the members who took a peek at her yesterday were, Don Baral, Harland La Porte, Wally Oesterreich, George Gross, Paul Greis, and Charles Walker.

A ship of her size plays tricks with the imagination, and Gross saw her as if "looking like a big stadium." One member came up shivering, being reminded of an "underwater graveyard." All divers mentioned the cold silence, except for the "singing" of their air through their regulators.

The barge which held the divers was escorted by the Club's 10-man life raft. The raft "putt-putted" and bounced along with the help of a 2 1/2 horsepower motor. Raft tenders were Larry Bethe and "Jean" Walker, and served a double purpose by guarding the single and double extra tanks, thermos jugs of coffee and tea, plus assorted after-diving snacks.

The excitement was so great that only after a total of five and one-half hours did we raft tenders realize we were, no doubt, the only ones without life preservers!

We had a lot of help that day; the waves were not too high; the water was quite clear to take pictures, and even for November 7, it was not too cold.

Perhaps the only frightening thing to upset our "fearless frogs-dicks," the divers standing on the barge, was in watching Bethe steer the raft clear of a loaded freighter which appeared to be coming at us raft tenders, "fifty-per." Bethe, however, manned it well out of the way, and we joined the barge, to hear their sighs of relief. ■

MANATEES, of Whitier, California. Club has been organized 6 months and has 11 active members. Ron Germene is president.

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**Texas . . .****LONE STAR DOLPHINS**

By BOB SPRINGER

A "front entry" type diving suit was modeled by Jim Wysong at our last meeting. Jim is the first member of our club to purchase a suit, and for the most of us this was the first time we had an opportunity to examine one.

Our President, Don Huntley, also supplied the Club with a little surprise. After the business meeting we settled back in our seats to watch two underwater films, one being "Ten Fathoms Deep," filmed by Captain Cousteau himself. Arrangements are being made to try and have a movie at each meeting in the future.

Recently completing the Red Cross Senior Life Saving Course were: Don Huntley, Joe Bohan, Zane Price, Jeff Dobbs and yours truly. In view of the many drownings recently associated with skin diving it is felt that each and every Club should endeavor to qualify every member as an advanced swimmer and life saver.

No field trips were planned last month due to unfavorable weather conditions and bad water. However plans are being laid for a trip out into the Gulf in the near future. If all goes well we will expect to have some more pictures for our scrap book, and who knows, maybe a nice trophy or two. ➤

**Michigan . . .****ANN ARBOR AMPHIBIANS**

By JEAN M. WHITE

We held our monthly meeting September 21st when we voted a free membership in our organization for Paul Uhlendorf. He is a water safety instructor, and in return he is going to pass all those eligible on their life saving badges. This is one of our safety measures now being formulated.

We also viewed the underwater slides that Jerry White took while in Florida. All of them were good, but the fellow became so entranced with the scenery he forgot the focus at times.

September 4th, George Mast and Jean White went to the A. A. U. meeting in Detroit. Where we campaigned to have spearfishing recognized as a national sport. Most of the delegates of Michigan A. A. U. agreed to vote for it if it appeared on the national agenda. Chuc McCaffree, swimming coach at Michigan State College in Lansing was most enthusiastic which of course encouraged us. The club is planning on a treasure hunt in Lake Huron in the next few weeks, and your reporter hopes to fill in favorable details in the next issue. We are starting our weekly Friday night swim at the local Y. M. C. A. at which time we plan to give extensive instruction in the use of all types of breathing apparatus, and proper procedure in skin diving. ➤

**Washington . . .****PUGET SOUND MUDSHARKS**

By KABEZONE KELLEY

Nice clear water, lots of big boulders and a sandy bottom with an abundance of shellfish—that's all it takes to satisfy these octopus—but then that guy with the holey suit, Jack Meyers, goes blundering down and spots two at different times sitting on an eel grass bottom big as you please. Like he says, he never lets an octopus get away and he's a man of his word, finding three and taking three. He hasn't found any over 11 feet spread yet but we know they are down there so he likes to have his hunting partner, Barry Fairfax, along to handle the tentacles on the larger ones. The last one yanked his mask off and then insulted him by trying to hold him on the bottom.

The Oregon Skin Divers sent three of their ablest men to Puget Sound on their bi-monthly pilgrimage with gunny sacks,



**MUDSHARKS** Jim Blanchard and Garry Keffler. Ling Cods weigh 41 and 37 pounds. Larger ones have been seen but not speared as yet.

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hungry looks and overload springs but they returned home a bit disgruntled after filling only two of their sacks on Sunday. I am beginning to suspect that the place is fished out.

It is getting so that we have to go as far as 30 miles to find new spearfishing grounds but I guess everyone is feeling the hard times. Everytime a new spot is found somebody has to go and break the fishing record requiring the old record holders to call off their sightseeing and frantically call for their gunbearers. Jim Blanchard had the record last week with a 41 pound ling cod then Gary Keffler upset it by bagging a 45 pounder. The lung divers tell us that they have seen a 70 pounder so the race is just beginning.

Four lungs and 3 rebreathers for 30 members in a two year period—this lung diving craze is taking hold—guess I'll have to try it. ➤

Wisconsin . . .

## MID-WEST AMPHIBIANS

By LEE E. GLEASON

On September 29, two club members, Fred Roberts, President, from Milwaukee and Charles Stanley, Vice President, from Kenosha, Wisconsin, made their deepest dive so far.

The dive was made in Lake Michigan approximately ten miles offshore from Kenosha, Wisconsin. Other club members assisting Stanley and Roberts were Gilbert Borkenhagen of Kenosha, Ralph West, Bob Hintz, and Lee Gleason, all of Milwaukee. Making the dive possible were three members of the Kenosha Yacht Club who donated their time and boats. They were Gene Bode, skipper of the Irene, Lou Rufflo, skipper of the Charles II, and Gus Rode, rear commando of K.Y.C. on the Charles II. He gave invaluable assistance during the dive. There were about a dozen other people aboard including reporters.

We left the K.Y.C. at 1:42 p.m. After making a couple of soundings, we stopped at a point that we figured would give our men 200' or more of water. The lake was quite rough and most of the people on both boats were seasick before the dive started. Apparently we made a mistake on our soundings because when the descending line was lowered, which had depth tags attached to it on the lower 50', we were only able to obtain 197' of water. We did not have time to move out to deeper water, so we decided to settle for the 197' depth.

At 3:15 p.m. Roberts and Stanley went below the surface. After descending quite rapidly to the bottom that consisted of cold, slimy clay with water temperatures around 32°, they checked several depth gauges which were all found to be inaccurate. They made a few grease pencil notations on plexiglas slates and came back to a 20' level of decompression for twenty minutes. Borkenhagen had descended 120' and waited for the divers to come back. West took another lung down 40', but neither diver needed it. They also decompressed approximately ten minutes at 10' and surfaced at 4:15 p.m., thereby making the 197' dive in sixty minutes.

Both Roberts and Stanley suffered slightly from narsosis while on the lake bottom and had slow but accurate reactions. Both got slightly wet but did not suffer as they had wet suits beneath their dry suits. Stanley said he felt completely exhausted on the way up, but otherwise neither suffered any ill effects.

All members of the club who participated in the dive had been up late for several nights before the dive getting equipment ready and tapping off the lungs with a small air compressor, etc.

We were all in a very tired condition before making the dive.

On October 17, the program director of the Underwater Club of Canada, Mr. Tom B. Rutherford of 795 Yonge Street, Ontario, Canada, dove with us at our favorite local stone quarry near Racine. Tom is an excellent diver and leads a full life. He was in the British Naval Aviation Service and also in the British Naval Underwater Patrol during world War II. He reports that in Canada they have a skin diving program for underprivileged children which would be a worthwhile public service for more of us. He also does a lot of hydro-archaeological survey work of ships sunk during the war of 1812 in Lake Ontario and Lake Huron.

We have started a public service group of divers to aid the Police, and Fire Departments, and the Civil Defense authorities on emergency underwater work. We have not completed the organizational work as yet, but we hope to have all the arrangements made in the near future. Our purpose will be to be of public service in time of need. If God is willing, we may be of help to our fellow citizens by use of our knowledge gained in this wonderful sport of skin diving.

On October 12 a small plane crashed into the Milwaukee harbor with three men on board. One man swam free, but the others were lost. Several members of our club searched in vain for the bodies in water with 6 to 12" visibility. They hooked cables onto the plane so derricks could raise it.

On October 23 Charles Stanley discovered a car in the Racine stone quarry that he had not seen on previous dives. It was a 1950 black Mercury convertible with 1954 Connecticut license plates. The license number was "MEOW". Realizing that a self-respecting Sheriff would find it difficult to believe a skin diver reporting a "MEOW" license number discovered in 10' of water, Chuck wisely decided to twist a plate off and bring it to the surface. On October 28 the F.B.I. had Chuck dive again and attach cables to the car, and it was hauled up and over the high quarry wall onto the highway. The car had been stolen from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

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**ATLANTIC COAST  
MARINE EXPLORERS**

By MICHAEL J. COCHARO

This recently formed underwater organization is open to all that meet the basic physical requirements and is 20 years of age. Meetings are held at the Central YMCA in Orange, New Jersey and our headquarters are located at 303 Branch Brook Drive, Belleville, New Jersey.

The response thus far has been more than expected and great interest in our type of diving club is being displayed from all sources. Because of the facilities offered we have joined hands with the YMCA and hold our meetings each Tuesday at 8 P.M. in our meeting room where guest speakers, films and club matters pertaining to diving are discussed. At 9 we adjourn to the 75 foot pool which has a depth of 10 feet and where we learn to develop our physical skill and the use of our equipment. However, we still remain an independently organized club with our own officers and charter. We expect to develop to the point where we will be completely ready to take advantage of the first day of nice weather in the spring to get out into planned outings along our Coast.

The advantage of our club is that instead of waiting for the nice weather before we begin our practice sessions we will be physically and equipment wise, completely prepared to get right into the water and begin fully developed activities whereas the individual finds it to be the end of summer before he is fully ready for full time diving.

California . . .

**SEA LANCERS OF  
SANTA MONICA**

By GENE DANIELS

Anacapa, Catalina, Malibu at night, Breakwater, and Palos Verdes all figured in the Sea Lancers schedule this past month. The trophy trip to Anacapa saw President John Logan take his second trophy with a 14 pound sheepshead and a bull lobster. Bill Anderson was in there pitching as usual but was finally edged out in the last few minutes of diving. While buddy diving with Gary Hall a long standing argument as to which of us was the better diver was finally settled by a bull sea lion which picked me out as his long lost brother while he proceeded to heckle Gary with a fine close up display of his excellent set of teeth. I guess he just didn't want any novice divers fouling up his fishing!

The clear water at Malibu sent Gill Moore, John Hall, Gary Hall, John Logan, and myself bug diving at night.

California

**KELPTOMANIACS**

By BEECH LASWELL

This month we welcomed another new diver to our club, Lou Kilgor of Hermosa Beach. We are very glad to have him with us, and hope his stay will be a long one.

Our monthly elimination meets and weekly dives have been a great success this year. We attribute this phenomenon in part to our phone man, Bert Williams' whose duty it is to phone each member once a week to let them know when, where, and what time, and of course present the treasurer with a phone bill once a month. It's usually small and a 100 percent turn out is worth it.

Doctor Storkan and Michael Harrold president, are planning a Big Blow for New Year's Eve. All members and wives or girls to be present. Movies, slides,



KELPTOMANIACS Cliff Dietrich and an 8-lb. lobster caught at the Carpinteria Reef. This is an exceptionally large bug for an early season catch.

goodies and lots of tall tales and bull sessions.

We feel a few good social events a few times a year work out well for the families.

A few months ago two of our divers went to San Felipe, Calif. They found dirty water and no available boats at fair prices. They did, however, find upon entering the water a rather large dorsal fin cutting through the water at a fast pace, directly at them. Somehow, having presence of mind they dove, at which time Mr. Shark parked next to their inner tubes and, *blam*, away went Mr. Big Shark and two shafts. Needless to say this is no ball in dirty water, so two 25 hp. outboard motors, Russ and Horace pushed their inner tubes rather rapidly to shore. Poor fellows, swear it was 20 feet long. The lads have had swivel necks in the water ever since.

Altho conditions were perfect for diving the bugs just weren't there. I wonder if they only come out late at night?

Illinois

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Illinois . . .

## MASK AND FIN CLUB

By GEO. SATNESS

The holidays are almost upon us, so let me take this moment to wish, each and all, the very best greetings and may this holiday season be the best yet.

I would also, on behalf of the boys in the Illinois Mask & Fin Club, like to extend a hearty welcome to a new club at Freeport — the "Inland Divers." The headquarters will be at 609 E. Jefferson St., Freeport, Ill.

Their member roster reads as follows: Virg Bowers, Don Prinkey, Fred Kuhlmeier, Don Gaines, Wirt Gillum, and Walt Creyer.

Mr. Virg Bowers says the present plans are to elect a board of several members whose duty it will be to be the guiding hand for the clubs various planned activities.

Keep an eye on the new clubs doings, for they plan big things for the future of skin diving in the midwest. ▶

Ohio . . .

## CLEVELAND SKIN DIVERS

By JOE MOZIC

We would like to inform the skin divers of the organization of a new diving club, the Cleveland Skin Divers, and take this opportunity to submit the first club report.

While diving during the summer months in Lake Erie, I was surprised to hear of many independent skin divers in and around Cleveland. Later we organized, and now we believe we have a very enthusiastic and progressive club. We have twenty-two members in the club now and expect to grow next summer.

There have been some nice club dives over the summer. On one occasion we went to investigate the wreck of a 260 ft. tanker sunk in 1942 in about 70 feet of water. With us came the outdoor editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer who gave us a very nice write up, stressing the safety measures used by the club.

The club is affiliated with the Cleveland Aquarium and uses the Aquarium as a location to hold meetings. It serves as an ideal focal point for diving attention. The Aquarium provides us with much information about Lake Erie aquatic life, and we in turn supply information about local bottom conditions and fish sightings. In this connection, members of the club have pledged themselves to community service. Some of the members figured into a local murder case recently when they were asked by the Cleveland police department to dive for the murder weapon. It was the Shephard murder case, and the members dived in Lake Erie behind the murder scene, but without success. ▶

California . . .

## MARIN SKIN DIVERS

By BUD AREY

The Marin Skin Divers, situated along the California coast north of San Francisco Bay, are becoming well acquainted with the underwater possibilities and naturally have made this knowledge available to other clubs. We would like to point out that other swimmers and surface fishermen as well as land owners obtain their impressions of skin divers by what they see. A dirty beach or a few careless drownings could set skin diving back several eons in this area—and might result in the loss of a perfectly good aqua-lung.

Since we all started making suits this spring the poor fish are really taking a beating. We stay in the water for hours at a time where before we were brave to go in at all. Everyone has his own variation to his suit. Bud Arey put a zipper back of his hood. Stan Goldsmith put snaps around the waist where his jacket overlaps his pants. Bob Bruce made a fancy one piece affair with a diagonal zipper across his chest. Thrall decided to stick to one piece construction and sacrifice the ease of getting in and out for the doubtful pleasure of keeping dry.

The club would like to give a vote of thanks to Willis McJunkin, and Dale Orr of the Northern California Skin Divers Club for their invaluable assistance in preparing the club charter. Without their experience, evolved thru years of trial and error, to guide us we could not have organized so quickly and so well. ▶

California . . .

## SQUID SQUEEZERS

By BUD SANTMYER

Three members of the Squid Squeezers, Dick Cole, Chuck Herrick, and Larence Richerson had a mixup at the Central California Spearfishing Championships so they weren't able to participate. And instead of being only spectators they decided to go down the coast to the southern end of Point Lobos. Since Point Lobos is a game reserve and consequently don't allow skin divers, "even ones who just want to take pictures," keeping on the opposite side of Gibson beach the boys entered the water and headed out to some large caves near by. On route there they spotted a sea otter floating on its back. Dick Cole in hopes of taking some pictures tried to approach it, but without much luck.

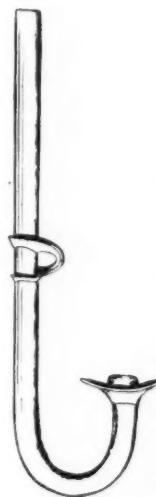
Now that we know there are sea otters in our favorite diving spot most of the club's activities are going to be centered on photographing them. ▶

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4. The snorkel must adjust to any face, or any mask, in any position.
5. Movement of the snorkel in the water should not cause movement of the mouthpiece. Constant slight movement of the mouthpiece causes shafting and irritation.
6. The snorkel must be designed not to snag or tangle in rocks or sea weed. Many a nice catch and considerable equipment have been lost due to a snorkel "hanging up" and pulling a diver's mask from his face.
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William Miller stand  
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Canal Zone . . .

## CANAL ZONE SKIN DIVERS

By JOAN TORIAN

Our club is devoted to the sport of under-water spearfishing and all its related activities. Let us outline a few facts concerning our club.

Our club is the first of its kind in this area. Organized about two years ago, it was recently strengthened by a merger with the "Hospital Skin Divers" of Ft. Clayton Hospital, another pioneer group of divers. We now have about thirty active members and are growing fast—to the point where we recently broadened our activities considerably.

The club owns a boat and motor and we stock spearfishing equipment for sale to members at a considerable saving. For two years we have sponsored the Annual Open Spearfishing Tournament in this area.

We meet two evenings a month at the Curundu Community Building. One meeting, on the second Wednesday of each month, is an open meeting for members, guests, and anyone interested. At this meeting we plan a special event of some nature—a movie on spearfishing, a party, etc. On the fourth Wednesday we have a business meeting with nothing special planned in the line of entertainment—just spearfishing talk.

In addition to our regular meetings, we plan frequent club trips—for diving and fun—as well as informal get-togethers. All-in-all, the club serves as a

California . . .

## SAN MATEO AQUAKNIGHTS

By DICK DE LOSA

Our club, San Mateo Aquaknights, has been formed for one year. This is our first article and we would like to thank the San Jose Barbs, for the organization and supervision of the recent Central California Championship, held at Fan Shell Beach in Monterey. Although we placed fourth and were beaten by more experienced clubs, our boys had a good time and learned a lot about skin diving.

At this time Dave Maroney is our president and Don Musser, sec.-treas. We have 14 active members who are enthusiastic divers. We dive as a unit every weekend and travel a good deal. Our main diving areas are Carmel and Santa Cruz.

Sunday, September 26, we held our inter-club contest at Carmel. The event was governed by A.A.U. rules, except that total weight of first five fish determined the winner. The contest lasted two hours. Winners were: first—Dick de Losa, sec.-second—Ed Galindo, third—Dave Lloyd. Medals will be presented to the winners at our next meeting.

Anyone interested in joining our club, in the San Francisco, Peninsula Bay Area, contact Don Musser, 50 Chumashero Drive, San Francisco. ■

common meeting ground for all who are interested in any form of underwater activity. ■

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## SKIN DIVERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 17, 1954, MEETING

Thirteen clubs present:

Apalachee Aqua Club, Fred Ball, Ed Miller; Clearwater Coral Kings, George Grisinger; Gulf Stream Underwater Hunters, Ed Townsend; Jax Jetty Jumpers, Jack Fitch, James Sweet; Neptune Club, Walter Lohmann, W. J. Quinn; Miami Beach Tritons, Charles F. Andrews, Fred Pinder; Sea Devils, F. T. Cabeza, Welsh Pierce; Orlando Otters, Sam DuBois, Foy Field; Palm Beach Divers, Harold Aycock, Harold Gordon; St. Petersburg Underwater Club, John Campbell, David Young; Sarasota Sand Sharks, Fred Logan; Silver Springs Sea Serpents, Charles McNabb, Florence McNabb; Tampa Tridents, Ray Odor, Fred Wolf.

President McNeely called on Harold Aycock for a report on the annual A.A.U. meeting held at West Palm Beach September 19, 1954. Mr. Aycock announced that he was appointed chairman of the Skin Diving Committee of the Florida A.A.U. He reported that to be a member of the A.A.U. no fish could be sold. Discussion followed. It was agreed that Mr. Aycock appoint a committee to arrive at a set of rules to be recommended to the Florida A.A.U. to govern the skin diving portion of the A.A.U.

President McNeely reported on the Florida Wild Life meeting which was held in Leesburg. He pointed out that they are not against spear fishing. In fact, there is quite a bit of enthusiastic support from some of the members. Ed Miller reported on various laws pertaining to fresh water.

Walter Lohmann told of the Florida Salt Water Conservation Association which has invited the Florida Skin Divers Association to become a member. A motion was made by George Grisinger, seconded by Charles Andrews, that we join the Florida Salt Water Conservation Association. Discussion followed and the motion was carried.

Rusty Jones read a letter from the Marine Association of Florida inviting the Florida Skin Divers Association to join their organization. Discussion followed. Ed Townsend moved that we join the Marine Association and also the Florida Wildlife Federation and assess each member club \$1.50 per club providing that each club be recognized as a member. Motion carried.

Link Scott, General Agent of the Florida Salt Water Conservation Department, was introduced and made an interesting talk on what we can do to cooperate with his Department. He also gave some helpful hints in obtaining legislation for spear-fishing. Officer Scott introduced Senator Conner from Citrus

County who is a member of the Fisheries Committee of the Florida Senate. Senator Conner talked on methods we may use to formulate legislation helpful to our sport. He then conducted a question and answer forum which proved very interesting as well as helpful. Officer Scott then reported on ways to foster goodwill with line fishermen and the general public.

The Board of Directors, one from each district, agreed to hold their meeting Saturday evening, December 4, prior to the state meeting on December 5.

The next state-wide meeting of Florida Skin Divers Association will be held on December 5, 1954, at 10:00 a.m. at 906 North Ocean Drive, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood, Florida. ▶

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California . . .

## THE LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

By HENRY DEL'GIUDICE

On Sunday the 17th of October, the Long Beach Neptunes, the McCulloch Mermen, and the Sub Mariners had a real "Beach Brawl." The results were, 1st place, McCulloch, Mermen — 19.5 lbs., Long Beach Neptunes, and Sub Mariners — also ran. And let this be a lesson to you to watch the clock. The Neptunes actually speared 73 lbs. of fish but Sampson, Mathison and Jamison came in four minutes late and were disqualified.

It has come to my attention that the Fish and Game Commission has found it necessary to spend quite a bit of money on diving gear lately. At first I was at a loss as to why they needed this gear but two days at Palos Verdes and some questioning gave me the answer—an answer I hated to hear. It seems that some of our most enterprising "sportsmen" (?), members of our most illustrious fraternity of skin divers are paying their rent or beer bill or buying silk stockings for chorus girls. It doesn't make much difference what they are doing with the money but they are getting it by setting underwater lobster traps and systematically lung diving an area clean of lobsters. And I thought that the lobsters were just hiding from me because I offended.

I can remember when I was nine and received my first rifle my teacher was a man who had hunted all over North America as well as a few other spots and well-known for his record bags. And one thing he repeatedly told me was "to maintain your integrity as a sportsman, never kill more than you can eat." As an example I have six kids, a big family. If we want abalone I find that three 7-inches is more than enough for my family and I leave two abalone behind. My wife can make enough lobster salad for one meal out of ONE four-lb. lobster. What in blue blazes would I do with 40 lbs. of lobster. I know what I would do with it if I had a commercial license and caught it by commercial lobstering methods in unrestricted areas. I would sell it openly. And if I get more than I need illegally I guess I would bootleg it.

How in the name of all that is good and decent can the O.F.P.A. get anything done to further fishing and prevail on our legislators to enact laws to limit the commercial fishermen's depredation of our ocean wildlife while our so-called sportsmen are just as guilty?

Let's try to make this one of the credos of skin diving: "Never take more than you can eat." ▶



VAL-RAYS Leo Wood, Bill Burroughs and Tom Fitzgerald seen at Pt. Dume, California, with day's catch.



BUD FLOWER, vp of the Long Beach Neptunes, presents cup to Bob Bault of the McCulloch Mermen after the tri-club beach meet. Newport Sub-Mariners competed.



HERB SAMPSON, Long Beach Neptune, shown here at Catalina Island. White Sea Bass weigh 60 and 37-lbs. August.

California . . .

## VAL-RAYS

By ART MASON

We are happy to be back in print again after a two month absence. Nothing exciting happened during these two months although diving was regular despite the colder temperatures. Last year we dove all winter without suits in 54 degree water. This year, however, most members have full rubber suits. Two new members were voted into our ranks at the November meeting. The new members are Leo Wood, and Jess Bailey. Both are terrific divers and will add greatly to the capabilities of the club.

Last weekend we had an abalone dive at Lunada Bay. Most of the group got their limits easily. The "abs" ran quite large. Most were between 7 1/2 and 8 1/2 inches. I believe that a straight "AB" iron works the best at this location. Although plentiful, most of the "abs" were taken from narrow crevices and shallow caves where there is little room for leverage.

Have any other clubs noted absence of lobster this season? How about a little inter-com. with some other clubs? My address is 7146 Sunny Brae Ave., Canoga Park. —

California . . .

## DOWNEY ABGRABBERS

By JOHN NAST

Almost any recent weekend, members of the Downey Abgrabbers could be found along the Pacific Coast waters of Punta Bunda, Ensenada, Santa Tomas and Half Way House in Baja, California.

Over the Labor Day weekend R. D. Keays, Jim Turpin, Ray Keays and their families went down to scout around and find some good diving beaches and coves. Things didn't go too well at first, the weather was foggy and the water was generally rough and muddy. Nobody got more than a few small perch and sheephead. It wasn't until Monday that their luck changed. From a group of natives, they heard of a spot where the fishing was supposed to be good. The beach didn't look promising. It was a long sandy beach with a rather high surf. It looked like a good bathing beach but it didn't look like there would be any fish. Disappointed they decided to give it a try in spite of its poor promise. When they got beyond the surf the water was clear and the bottom was scattered with reefs and holes.

The place was alive with fish which were unafraid of the divers.

At the next meeting Jim Turpin made a full report of their trip and didn't forget to tell about the "big one that got away" from R. D. At this meeting several trips were planned to Lower California by club members. —

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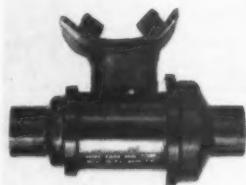
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GEOLOGIST AND  
DIVING TECHNICIAN

California . . .

## LONG BEACH JUNIOR NEPTUNES

By TOM CROSSMAN

After nearly breaking up, the Long Beach Junior Neptunes are back on their feet again and going strong. Past President Bob Evanoff, who got married and is now expecting a junior Junior Neptune, felt that he didn't have the time to carry on with the tasks of President. Taking his place is our new President, Jack Zeran. Jack, who has been in the club since its beginning two years ago, is really doing a fine job of stirring up a lot of interest. We have a new Secretary also. Gary Mitchell is taking the place of Dick Powers, who dropped out of active membership. We recently voted in six new



LONG BEACH JUNIOR NEPTUNES Chuck McCarger and Gary Howe with 17-lb. male and 18-lb. female sheepsheads.

members who really seem to add to the club. After cleaning house and dropping some of the inactive members we find that we have twelve active members in the Junior Neptunes.

Now that the season is open, a lot of the fellows have been going to the Long Beach Breakwater at night to pick up a few bugs. The largest of the season so far this year is a four and one-half pound lobster taken by new member Gary Blockley. Not any really big bulls have been spotted, as yet.

Gary Howe, new member, Chuck McCarger, and Tom Crossman have recently connected with some large sheepsheads at Laguna. Howe speared an eighteen pound female, which is a new club record. McCarger got a seventeen pound male and Crossman got a sixteen pound male.

Since our last article appeared in the SKIN DIVER, Tom Crossman has connected with two new club records, a nine pound Bull Bass and a seven pound Moray eel, both at Laguna. Also, Gary Blockley speared a thirty-four pound Angel shark in the shadows of Belmont Pier in Long Beach. As he was not a member of the club at the time, it doesn't go down as a club record. ➤

California . . .

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## SAN FRANCISCO DIVING CLUB

By DICK SHANKEL

This club elected new officers at our last meeting. Dick Shankel is our new President and Lee Kearney our new Secretary-Treasurer. The club would like to extend its thanks to Ed Poe and Bill Mixon for the good work in the last year.

We got off on a diving trip to Fanshell Beach on the Monterey-Carmel 17 mile Drive. Wow, what water! We should have brought our surf boards instead of diving equipment. We fought heavy surf, rip-tides and sea lions. Even for the heavy seas, we managed to spear a few fish and collect some abalone.

About 4:00 o'clock we started to come out of the water. Bill and I were on the beach when Bill sighted something on the horizon and started yelling to George and Lee, who were still in the water, to get in quick. My girl friend, Evelyn, started blowing the car horn so they would hear us. With people yelling, car horns blowing and arms waving, we managed to get two tired boys into shore, asking, "What's up?"

What would you think if you saw two high dorsals cutting the water? We aren't saying, but they looked like Killer Whales to us. After this we decided to go home, and some muttering was heard about taking up a nice quiet sport like motorcycle racing.

As we started to leave the beach, something about 200 feet from shore broke water and it, too, had a high dorsal fin. I would judge it to be 15 to 20 feet in length, thick in front and tapering back to a nice neat tail.

Well, that's it for this month, except if there were any other clubs in the area on Saturday, October 30th, who saw strange things in the water and got a good look at them, we would appreciate hearing from them. Write to: Dick Shankel, 209 Steiner St., San Francisco, Calif. ■■■



SAN FRANCISCO DIVING CLUB members at Fan Shell Beach. Photos by Dick Shankel.

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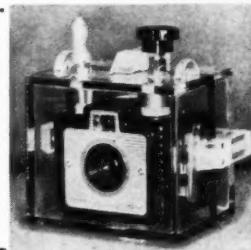
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FOR SALE—near new Standard Aqua-Lung with weight belt and filling attachment \$85.00. Deluxe 2-rubber Arbalette with extra heads and shaft \$12.50. New valve with air reserve \$10.00. Morton Berndt, 432 Harvard Road, Burbank, California.

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## ASSOCIATED DIVERS

By RON WRIGHT

2 Arum Court, Queen Mary Ave.

Durban, South Africa

Much water has passed under the bridge since last I wrote your magazine and I want to take this opportunity of advising that the above association is now well in existence.

Organized primarily for the diver who uses breathing equipment, Associated Divers already has a constitution and 50% of its limited membership, an axiom being that a diver has to be just that to join.

In order to keep the boys right in the picture so far as the latest developments are concerned, we would be very grateful for any information that anyone would care to send us, especially we would appreciate any of the numerous diving firms in the States writing to us with any information they might care to give.

Associated Divers is centered in Durban a long way from America but we want to especially request any reader of the SKIN DIVER to contact us if ever they visit South Africa and give us a chance to display some of the hospitality we know we would receive if any of us were lucky enough to be able to spend a holiday in the United States.

I must take this opportunity of pointing out that I am the secretary of Associated Divers and a Committee member of the international committee of the International Underwater Spearfishing Association; I have no connection with any other fishing body and only the above organizations may be reached by the above address.

*Michigan . . .*

## STAR DIVERS

By JESS MAXWELL

A new skin diving club is being formed in the town of Wayne, Michigan it is to be sponsored by The Wayne Star Newspaper and The Star will carry all the activities of the club. During the winter months more and more members will be added. There are already about 10 interested people before the club has even held a meeting. How's this for skin diving interest in the State of Michigan?

Those of you who have never dove in fresh water before would enjoy it. The water of some lakes is clearer than salt water. The clearest water is found in northern Michigan while the southern lakes are more murky and dirty. There are plenty of fish, too. To name a few are blue gill, sunfish, perch, bass, lake trout, trout, carp, suckers and pike (pike can be like barracuda if they want to be). They have been known to take bites out of swimmers legs.

Skin diving in Michigan is growing faster every day. During the summer the lakes are full of divers. Some even go as far as to go through the ice in the winter to explore with Aqua-Lungs. So, if you are looking through the ice some cold winter day, don't be too surprised if you see a "man fish." A hint: don't spear him. He's not edible.

We would appreciate it, if you would write us, whether it's about joining the club or any helpful hints that you might have. The address is Jess Maxwell, 3015 Sophia Street, Wayne, Michigan.

## MEMBERS OF DIVING CLUBS

By LYNN POOLE

112 W. University Parkway,  
Baltimore 10, Md.

Thanks to Jim Auxier of the SKIN DIVER, I am making real progress on my next book. By way of introduction—I am director of Public Relations for the Johns Hopkins University and produce the weekly television programs *Johns Hopkins Science Review*. On my own spare time, with the help of Gray Poole (my wife), I write books on scientific subjects for teen-age readers. These books are published by McGraw-Hill Book Company.

At the moment I am envious to hear from all of you who have had any connection with scientific investigation. In what manner have you aided science in its increasing knowledge of the sea or inland lakes? I am interested in how you have aided scientists in their study of flora, fauna and geology? I am interested to know about your exploration of caves, canyons and sunken wrecks. I'd like to know about your deep dives, your unusual experiences. Most of all, I want to know how you have helped in scientific advancement—details, experiences, names or persons and photos will be sincerely appreciated.

Why am I interested and why so anxious to have this material right away? Because my next book (for 1955 publication) will tell the story of how divers (skin, helmet and heavy suited) aid in the advance of science. Much credit is due you—I'd like to give it to you—will you help me? I'll be grateful to you.



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# What veteran skin divers say about the new Jantzen "Spearfisherman" trunks

Here are comments from veteran skin divers who comprise the Jantzen Skin Diving Advisory Council—comments that accompanied their testing reports on various models of the "Spearfisherman" trunks:

"...trunks arrived a few days ago...fabric is excellent and quite tough enough, and I am sure the fabric would last long and prevent tears and cuts from sharp coral...tie-on belt is very good indeed; we all like it...replaced the thick rope you sent with parachute cord nylon which is stronger and slimmer...athletic supporter is a 'must'! Otherwise, unwieldy contours appear at odd moments." (Note: This was a test model. The "Spearfisherman" trunks have a built-in supporter.) "...fit was good...no chafing...need for a special skin diving suit is badly felt here...with a few minor changes...this is it."

rope can be looped for easy securing of lines and equipment; can be arranged many ways.



camouflage colors that won't frighten fish, won't excite barracuda and sharks.

exceptionally tough fabric designed originally for hunting jacket... tested and found snagproof even on rocks, barnacles, and coral.

"...ever since I checked the new trunks with the skin divers here they've all been on my neck to get their first pair...can't hold these characters off too much longer."

"...saw your new trunks at the national tournament at Key West...liked them immensely...should be the top seller among skin divers."

"...rope idea and hard finish on the trunks are excellent! The legs fit fine..."

"...Best part about the pilot suit is the zipper, but I think it needs a real built-in elastic supporter. The material is very good..."

"I like the rope, which doesn't foul up like regular belts... material is very good, no chafing...slid across some barnacles...trunks showed no broken fabric."

"...like the pilot suit, the waist is good...legs were a little too tight when I was climbing the ladder of the boat. The rope is good, but a little too stiff...material very good."

"...want an elastic built-in supporter, but other than that the suit is perfect except that the rope is too stiff. Particularly think the fabric is just right."

"...particularly like the hard finish on the fabric..."

"...fabric is fine, the color is excellent, particularly since many spearfishermen are discovering that camouflage helps..."

"...think that the tough, hard weave will be good in rocky and coral areas...like the rope tie-on belt. Of all the features that other divers have noticed, this has been the most discussed. I like the rope loop arrangement, the length and the white color...rope could be more flexible and of slightly smaller diameter...most divers like a Robinson Crusoe touch to their garb and the white rope does just that...like the cut of the suit...leg length is good...side zipper is a good feature...Colors good...Dark blue, green and deep maroon would be very good also..."



Mel Fisher and Nelson Mathison, well-known underwater photographers, are leading an expedition to the Caribbean to test skin diving equipment and to produce an undersea movie for Jantzen and other skin diving equipment manufacturers.



